

COMMUNION

Enjoying
Spiritual Fellowship
with the
Holy Spirit

SECOND EDITION

Based on the chapter of the
same name from the book

FOUNDATIONS
of the KINGDOM

This book is being produced for use in small
group study, or ministry training seminars.

by Edward Johnson

This book is an expanded teaching based on the chapter of the same name in the book *Foundations of the Kingdom*, and is being published for use in small groups and in seminars, to train people to walk in *Spiritual Communion with the Lord*, meaning to have open spiritual fellowship with the Lord—and not only to train them to how they can teach others, but also how they can use Communion as a means of ministering to people to:

Bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives,
and release from darkness for the prisoners

Be open to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, as you pray in the name of Jesus, and be prepared for Him to lead you into realms that you may have never even dreamed of, as you explore worshipping God in spirit, beholding Him with unveiled face

Prayer Mountain Bohol

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Second Edition ~ Introduction

“God ... is always so close to us ... all the time!”

Before we get into the Scriptures and the explanations and the theology of it all, let me just share what happened recently when I helped a small group of Christian ladies step beyond the veil that once separated Man and God, but was removed with the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and find what we have learned to call spiritual communion, the restoration of personal fellowship with the Lord God Jehova, Yahweh, Maker of Heaven and Earth:

I was invited to share with a small group of ladies one Sunday at a restaurant to help them discover how to hear God’s voice for themselves. As I started sharing I felt the Lord’s unmistakable presence—refreshing, energizing, strengthening me and helping me know what to say, how to say it, and ensuring me that our time of ministry would be fruitful ... I was not prepared, however, for it being so exciting!

After sharing the Lord’s word for a little while but without explaining what we were going to do too much, I asked the first lady who wanted to talk with God to sit in the chair next to me. I asked the others to pray for her for two things in general: one for the Lord’s Spirit to flow; and two, for her to have an open heart to “listen” to Him, which I said was to “have the eyes of her heart opened.”

These ladies were all from Indonesia, and we needed a translator since half of them spoke very little or no English. That can actually make my job a little easier sometimes since words so often get in the way of understanding the deep things of

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God. We need to teach people coherently, and so we use words, sometimes exactly, but human words alone cannot convey the understanding of God, or impart Revelation, can they? No, not without the Spirit of God actually being present. The Spirit of God is the actual ministry—He brings it, He causes it, but actually He IS it. So we do speak, and we try to do our best to speak well, but there comes a time when we need to *stop speaking* and then to DEMONSTRATE the SPIRIT OF GOD—1 Corinthians 2:4-5:

⁴And my speech and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

When the Spirit of God shows up it clarifies—I mean HE clarifies the reality of the things of God we are trying to speak about, far better than we can explain using any human language.

So this first lady sat next to me, and I just quietly prayed for those two things: for God to manifest His Presence, and for her to open her heart to Him; or to say it in a different way, we prayed for the Lord to flow, and for Him to open up her spiritual eyes. I then encouraged her to focus her attention on the Lord who would speak to her in her spirit, in her heart, and I often tell people to just try and “imagine” a picture of Jesus in their heart since it helps them concentrate and “fix the eyes of their heart on Jesus,” ... but at the same time I ask people to seek to actually speak with Jesus, to pray that He would reveal himself, that he would speak with her ... very quickly, in just a minute something very interesting happened ... she saw Jesus.

To separate what may be just imagination from a true spiritual encounter I usually ask people to describe what they see Jesus doing, or wearing, or saying ... I want to distinguish what may be coming from their own imagination, from actually observing Jesus in spirit ... so I gently asked her to describe what she was seeing, and how did she know it was real and not just something she was making up.

Very quickly and firmly she said, no, she was not making it up, it was really Him.

How did she know for sure?
Well, for starters she started to cry.

Through her tears and the translator's halting English I learned that when she focused her attention to see the Lord, "fixing the eyes of her heart on Him" that she saw Jesus almost immediately, as clear as day ... and He was looking at her, holding her deceased daughter in his arms.

She felt his presence, but she also *felt his gaze* and He said something to her like, "Your daughter is here safe with me."

That's when she broke down and just started to cry and cry.

I was told beforehand, warned actually, that one of the ladies had lost a child and maybe needed deep inner healing before we could do any ministry—but Jesus was WAY ahead of me. Inner healing BEFORE the ministry? **Inner healing IS the ministry!** Jesus not only took her grief seriously—but was not afraid to bring it right out in the open and address it directly. It was the very first thing He showed her, the first thing He wanted her to hear, the first thing He wanted to heal. And she just cried and cried as her pain and loss was deeply, truly and *permanently* healed.

Jesus told me one time that healing is often needed before people can hear Him well. "Healing always brings Hearing," he said.

And so I should have been more prepared, but after healing this lady of the deepest wounds in her heart, something unexpected suddenly happened. She began to prophesy, and I mean PROPHECY! WOW!

She EXPLODED in prophecy—nearly SHOUTING—speaking so loud, steady and ANOINTED!—as she repeated word for word what she was hearing the Lord of all Creation say to her—but now it was what He was saying THROUGH her! You know the verse:

Amos 3:8, "*The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?*"

Well, that's exactly what she did, and it as like BANG!—PROPHECY!!

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After it was over, a second lady wanted to have her turn and pushed the first lady out of the chair—I mean really just PUSHED her right out since she was so excited! She sat down and I heard God say a few disconnected words to me about her as I prayed, but I could not understand what it meant and didn't know what kind of ministry she needed. Then there was a lot of talk going on in Indonesian back and forth that no one translated and I could not follow what was happening.

Then this second lady started to cry too!

I prayed more for her to better understand what God was doing ... and I heard a few more disjointed words from God for her that I still couldn't understand: "Willing ... King ... Warrior..." and there was a lot more talking going back and forth in Indonesian.

Finally someone paused and told me what was happening ... this second lady sat in the chair and as soon as she did the Holy Spirit just moved on her and caused her TO DEDICATE HER LIFE TO HIS SERVICE right then and there. No one asked her to do it, and no one was prepared for it—she herself had not been thinking of it ... and just suddenly it was a rush of emotions and anointing power and she was totally caught off guard and just melted in tears in His Presence in "willing" obedience (ah ha!) and it turned out to be like the calling of an apostle or a prophet out of the bible (she was being called as a prayer "warrior"—double ah ha!), and other things.

I was both relieved and stunned, and I certainly didn't do anything to lead this interaction myself. It was God's sovereign move and I, the guest minister, was actually having a hard time keeping up with the ministry myself! Then things shifted into high gear.

I turned to the first lady who was sitting on this lady's left, and I asked the first lady if she could just focus her heart's attention back on the Lord to ask Him if there was anything He wanted to say to her for this second lady—I was trying to help encourage her to learn how to seek a word from God for someone else to help minister to them, to help her learn to pray from the Lord's Spirit instead over others.

Well, she got the translation of what I asked, nodded her head in understanding and agreement, closed her eyes to seek the Lord ... and then quickly LOOKED RIGHT UP AT THE CEILING with her neck craning at a sharp angle ... then she began to get teary-eyed again and was lost in rapture for a moment, leaving me, again, with no idea what was going on.

I mustered my patience, asked God to help me hang on, and asked the translator again ... If she could please tell me what was going on ... I asked a few more times and then asked less patiently if the translator could just please tell all of us if that first lady was seeing anything she wanted to share for the lady we were praying for, or if should continue to pray for her ourselves.

The first lady who was starting with eyes closed up at the ceiling now told the translator that she was seeing a captivatingly clear vision of CLOUD, but through it the GLORY OF THE LORD was shining onto her with BRIGHT LIGHT—she actually laughed as she said it— BRIGHT LIGHT—and that it was SO BRIGHT it was FILLING her vision, so captivating that she could barely tell us what she was seeing, and then....

—WHAM—she fell over onto the table.

She was just suddenly overcome by the power of God, and fell right over—THUD!—hitting her head flat on the table!

We were at a restaurant, people were having lunch, and I am just thankful there wasn't a bowl of soup or something in front of her because she just—WHAM!—and all the silverware and glassware make a loud CRASHING sound that everyone in the restaurant could surely hear. And then, you guessed it, she started to PROPHECY!—BOOM—nearly SHOUTING!!—not quite so, but she was barely able to control the volume of her voice, oblivious to the stares of the people around us, and she was still laying there with her head turned sideways on the table ... PROPHECYING!

After a long time, a minute or two, she stopped speaking and just laid there silently, her head nearly still—it looked like she had passed out. Things became very quiet, and after a pause we shook her gently to try to see if she could respond, if the vision was over, or if she wanted to share anything ... she finally responded but very slowly as if waking from a deep sleep or like from a deep dream.

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“What happened?” we asked her, and she tried to tell us but everything after the point when she fell over was GONE from her conscious mind. She remembered seeing the Cloud of Glory, and the Light of God shine through it onto her, and she remembered that suddenly God began to speak from the Light and the Cloud ... but she had no recollection of what He said, nor of the fact that she shouted it out to the rest of us as she lay her head on the table. Once she had become overcome by the power of the presence of God her conscious mind was unable to function, even though she prophesied so loud and clear what she was hearing God say, it was beyond her natural ability to recall any of it.

The translator, in stunned awe, told me she was able to write down most of what she said when she was prophesying and looked at me, almost bewildered, and said not so much TO me, but AT me, “God ... is always so close to us ... all the time!” as her voice trailed off.

What could I say at that point that would matter at all? No sermon, no lesson of theology, no explanation was needed or even appropriate God had just manifested Himself in their presence!

I added, feebly, compared to what God had just done, “Yes, He lives in our hearts.”

That lunch meeting took SEVEN hours, and when we met again to give the other ladies a chance to talk with the Lord it was more of the same, which is still very unusual. The translator had her turn, and when she opened her heart to the Lord’s presence, she too started prophesying, loud and clear, even more so than the first lady! In her case though she stayed enraptured in God’s presence so long that I had to leave and couldn’t rouse her from being captivated by His presence long enough to tell her good bye. I shook her shoulder, told everyone goodbye, we all chatted a bit and said thanks and we’ll meet again and all that ... told her again I was leaving ... still no response ... I shook her a little ... goodbye ... no reply! ... so I left ... and finally much later they told me she came to her earthly senses and looked around and asked everyone where I was, she wanted to ask me so many questions ... when did I leave?

* * *

These were unusual ministry times in some respects ... but very typical in others. What God will say, or show you, or cause you to do in reaction to His Presence is always a surprise, always new, never quite the same thing twice ... but that HE SHOWS UP has so far been a 100% certainty when we seek Him in spirit and in truth—may it always remain so!

So “communion” (as we call it) is simply spiritual fellowship (as God calls it) between a person and God. It is a spiritual mystery most bible believing people never discover the true meaning of, they are often more content with the rituals and symbols of communion that they never come to enjoy the EXPERIENCE of it, but is so simple that everyone actually can. It is not like a ‘spiritual gift’ that one person has and another does not; it is something every believer can enjoy since it’s just prayer, it’s just opening your heart to the Holy Spirit and letting his LIGHT shine into the darkness of our carnal lives on earth—it is therefore something ANYONE can do, because thanks to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ ANYONE can become saved and invite the Holy Spirit into their hearts to forgive their sins, to sanctify them, and to in-dwell their hearts and so cause them to become adopted as Children of the Almighty God, and so begin to enjoy fellowship with Him, Spirit to spirit.

Isaiah 30:20-21

²⁰And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher.

²¹And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

But yes just because there is a Truth, does not mean there are not also counterfeits. There are obstacles some people face when trying to connect with the Lord in spirit. Most problems we can easily learn to overcome, and ultimately God can solve ANY

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problem we have, remove ANY obstacle in our way to enjoying his personal fellowship. There are also counterfeits, there are pitfalls, there are deceiving spirits, wrong voices to hear, lying demons who try and trick us to lead us astray.

There are people who make honest mistakes, and others who mock and ridicule spiritual things, and even those who intentionally malign the message and distort the truth by just plain lying ... and that is much of what the rest of this teaching will cover, helping people who want to learn how to distinguish the True from the counterfeit to do just that. People distort the very Gospel of Salvation, people preach the Bible falsely, still others teach utter lies and doctrines of demons about every aspect of the Bible and the Kingdom of God, even unto denying the Lord who died for them ... but so what? We still have a message to preach. Does the fact that there are people lying and deceiving stop us from preaching the real Word and Proclaiming the Truth?

So yes, I know some people will intentionally misuse and distort what we are sharing, but that does not make us shy or ashamed to speak. The Truth still marches on.

And we try our best to be clear and present these things plainly so they will not be misunderstood, but once we sow the seed of the Word of God, ultimately it is the people who have a GOOD HEART who will take it as a seed into good soil and with perseverance will produce a good crop, some 40, some 60 some 100 fold, a harvest of intimacy with the Lord for their own lives, sharing it with others who will in turn hear their testimony.

In many ways we have been given a real PEARL, a treasure of the Kingdom that we have also been commissioned by the Lord to share and to teach people to enjoy, for we are taking about the heartfelt quest, the deep yearning of so many souls to have the veil between them and God actually removed and to be able finally to talk freely with the Lord Jesus Christ, as one might be able to talk with a neighbor, a friend, or a lover.

It's what we have been promised—Emmanuel, God with Us—and what we all long for—God as a real intimate friend.

And thank God, it is the very thing He has so much desired for us to enjoy as well. That is why in His Wisdom and Grace He has provided a means for us to enjoy what we call communion,

but what He simply calls fellowship with Him, the restoration of personal interaction with the Lord God.

Yes, it is a Pearl, and we have to be responsible with how we share it, and so with that introduction to whet our appetite in mind, to help people more clearly and more fully understand what is possible in this discipline that we call “Communion—spiritual fellowship with the Holy Spirit,” let us now turn our attention to laying a scriptural foundation that will hopefully make the biblical basis for this glorious practice of spiritual intimacy as plain as the dawn.

May the Lord be our teacher as we do so!

Prologue

So as we start our exploration of experiencing open fellowship with the Holy Spirit, something we now call Spiritual Communion, let's first consider some well-known verses:

John 4:23-24

²³“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

1 John 2:27, *“As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”*

1 John 1:3, *“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”*

2 Corinthians 3:18, *“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.” (ASV)*

And then let me ask a question:

Who can speak with God . . . and live?

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Well for starters, Moses did. Even the entire company of the Israelites freed from Egypt did, only when they did, they could not bear it longer than a few moments without wishing they had never come that close to the Lord!

So very unfortunate for them!

God is still the same, but now through Jesus we can enter into a safe place, even beyond where Moses stood, and can approach the Lord with the same and even more confidence, maybe reassurance is a better word. We can approach Him with a real feeling of safety for ourselves that we can interact with this living Fire and not die.

Sure, what is burnable will be consumed, but it is a purifying fire—it will purify us, not kill us; it will kill our flesh but so our spirits can live.

This is the real heart of the matter of being able to enjoy spiritual communion with God—the rift due to the justified fear we have because of our own sinfulness in God’s presence can be removed and we can talk unveiled with the living Flame.

People who have not been born again or are spiritually very weak still approach God as the ancient Israelites did, in fear and panic. But when Christ dwells in your heart, a strength is gradually imparted to you—a strength which is called grace—and a peace and reassurance fills our hearts and we know **WE CAN INDEED** hear God’s voice and live—in fact, it is such a beautiful thing to enjoy that the more we experience it, the hungrier and thirstier we grow to draw closer and closer to Him.

This is what we are going to explore in this teaching, to lead you to experience, and beyond that to help teach you to lead others to experience this kind of personal spiritual encounter with God as a way of growing and even ministering to people by allowing them to be ministered to by the Holy Spirit directly, from Spirit to spirit.

This is the journey toward knowing God in spirit and in truth beyond merely knowing about God by doctrines and theologies. It is enjoying the restored personal fellowship with the Lord that was lost to Man so many years ago. And it is for this experience of wholeness, of intimate fellowship, that Jesus set us free.

But let’s begin by looking more closely at what the Bible says about this amazing blessing freely given to those who are in Christ.

Chapter 1

The Scriptural Basis for Communion

As ‘Indwelling’ becomes ‘Union’

Most believers can recall having a memorable personal experience when they got ‘saved’ and can easily distinguish the nature or quality of their lives before and after the Holy Spirit’s deposit or seal of ownership was placed on them, as their sins were forgiven by the blood of Jesus. When the Holy Spirit first came into their hearts peace and forgiveness replaced fear and alienation.

Many then entered into the fellowship of the community of the saints and grew slowly by learning the Bible, cleaning up bad habits, learning to trust God and pray, and eventually learning to seek emotional refuge in God from the worries and toils of daily life.

What happens when his sheep enter into such a ‘secret place’ of trust and reliance on God *in heart* is that they begin to become united with Him in spirit. At its most basic level this is what is meant by ‘fellowship with the Spirit’ or by spiritual communion, but which, as we mature, continues to develop into more and more open communion reflecting a deeper union with Him in spirit.

Some verses to consider include, **1 Corinthians 6:19a**,

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? ...”

This is the reason why you can commune with God so easily if you are a believer. In fact it is a freedom, a kind of right, even a privilege given to ALL believers to have this indwelling Spirit—given to anyone who is a real ‘sheep.’

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And while God can actually speak to any creature, even Satan, it is only those who are at peace with His Spirit who can have *fellowship* or spiritual union with Him.

Also consider **John 10:27**,

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

To me this is a fulfillment of the prophecy from **Isaiah 30:20-21**,

*20“Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, **your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them.** 21Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, **‘This is the way; walk in it.’”***

And even **Jeremiah 31:31-33**, foretelling the New Covenant:

*31“‘The time is coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,’ declares the LORD. 33‘This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,’ declares the LORD. **‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.’”***

What this really shows is the healing of a great rift as I alluded to above. In Exodus 20 when the Israelites heard God speak they were terrified—not in the holy ‘fear of the Lord’ that draws you to Him and to respect Him, but in carnal fear of being near a powerful, dangerous being—their human fear, rooted in the sudden awareness of their sinfulness in the presence of the Divine Holiness, drove them away from God. Moses talks about that event in Deuteronomy 5 more clearly; it was when God spoke to them from the mountain giving them the 10 Commandments:

Deuteronomy 5:23-26,

23“When you heard the voice out of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, all the leading men of your tribes and your elders came to me. *24*And you said, ‘The LORD our God has shown us his glory and his majesty, and we have heard his voice from the fire. **Today we have seen that a man can live even if God speaks with him.**

25“But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us, and **we will die if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer.** *26*For what mortal man has ever heard the voice of the living God speaking out of fire, as we have, and survived?”

They DID hear God and live **but were too afraid to WALK IN IT.** They were invited to open communion with the Divine, but backed away from it because of carnal fear. No wonder, even Moses was freaking out, let alone the regular people who were not prepared to stand in that fiery holiness.

This weakness in man is what **Hebrews speaks about in 12:18-26,** saying that this problem has now been resolved for those who are in Jesus:

18“You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; *19*to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, *20*because they could not bear what was commanded: ‘If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.’ *21*The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, ‘I am trembling with fear.’

22“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, *23*to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, *24*to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵“*See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?*”

²⁶“*At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, ‘Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’”*

Adam and Eve, what did they lose?

It’s also helpful to back up and look at the root problem. So thinking back to the old story of Adam and Eve, try to put your finger on the main thing that they lost in the Fall that caused this hardening of man’s heart.

Was it supernatural health? Sure, but there was more.

Pain-free childbirth, toil-less farming, talking with the animals? Sure, all fine and good but there is still something more. What was the real beauty of the life they led in the Garden?

It was one of personal fellowship with God.

They could talk, converse and commune with God *as a person*, as someone who was accessible, who they were able to relate to. This must have been the most fulfilling and wonderful part of life in the Garden ... and it must have been the single most painful loss ... **but it is also the very heart of what God is restoring to the human race through the ministry of reconciliation through Jesus Christ.**

What God is restoring at heart is our ability to have Communion, not just a community of people, or a food ceremony to symbolize the mechanism of forgiveness, but the enjoyment of the result of true forgiveness—**actual spiritual fellowship with God as a person, right here, right now.**

So that you may have ζωή and have it in a superior quality!

Another way we can understand their tragedy in falling into sin is to identify the transformation they underwent—what exactly was it that they lost *from within themselves* during the Fall, from enjoying Eternal Life into becoming susceptible to Mortal Death.

The Fall caused more than a severing of communication with God, it caused them to lose a living substance from inside their hearts. They lost a kind of LIFE which once abided within them, leaving them under the power of sin and death. It is for the restoration of this LIFE to us that Jesus came, died and was raised to life again. It is the receiving of this LIFE that is the process of becoming godly, becoming conformed in character, in essence to the image of authentic children of the living God—the growth of the new self hidden in Christ and created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness; it is our maturity into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Consider this verse:

John 10:10, *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

Some versions use the term “abundant life” here, which many people think refers to a *supersized carnal life*: a higher salary, a bigger house, a more beautiful wife, a richer husband, to grow two inches taller, to lose 30 pounds, all we want on earth to be bigger, better ... and I must admit, in a way this Life we are being allowed to partake of in Christ can do all those things, but such a list by no means describes this Life from Christ adequately, and so to think of it as merely a better carnal life is misleading and wrong.

We also can note that the term ‘abundant’ can mean to have more than you need, to superabound, but it also can mean to have a superior quality of a thing. That is a better way to think of this Life, which is implanted through the Seed that we are born of, and which begins the start of the growth of the New Self, a spiritual self created in the image of Christ.

So to distinguish this spiritual life from the carnal life, I like to use the same terms C.S. Lewis used, referring to the divine life shared with humans through Christ as *zoe*, (ζωή) the actual Greek word which is used here in John 10:10, and *bios* for the normal carnal human life. In this distinction *zoe* describes the kind of Life that is restored to people through Jesus’ plan of redemption. **It is a divine quality of life.** Not the kind of *bios* or biological life that plants and animals and fallen men still have—not even the angelic kind of life that the Lord’s spiritual servants have, **but the kind or**

quality of life GOD has, and that is what He is sharing with us through Christ!

So in fact the ZOE in us will not supersize the carnal life, it will actually destroy it!

Luke 12:15, *“Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’”*

You may LOSE all those great things we all seek and long for out of the motives of our carnal appetites. If they get in the way of the *zoe*, since the love of such things in the carnal life is hostile and at war with *zoe*, they will either conquer it and quench the *zoe* out of you, or if you choose the spirit and submit that area of your appetites to God, the *zoe* will supplant your carnal desires and godliness will flourish. The conflict may rage in you for a long time, as Paul said, but victory, both incremental and wholesale is your calling, your invitation.

So the ministry of Christ is to restore and then build people up in this Zoe Life. This life is spiritual, of a divine nature, and it begins as a seed that grows within us into a tree, but there are other ways of describing it: as access to a well; it is a tap into a river, in fact the River of Life; it is a window open to a wind / breath (*ruach*), in fact the very Breath of God—it is a connection to the Divine. And of course we see levels of deeper and deeper union, more strength of this *zoe* life in us as we grow and mature into his likeness.

So now can you begin to understand more clearly what it is that God is restoring to us in Communion through Christ? When you think of the Adam and Eve story, that they lost having this Life living within them, and lost the spiritual connection to Life, THE BEING, which such communion brings, or causes as a result of His abiding presence, then we can see the real goal of Christianity is to restore this connection, to cause the reunion, the restoration of the “*common union*” of Man and God, the restored communion of daily fellowship with God that Adam and Eve once enjoyed on earth because of having the Life of God living in them.

A Scriptural Basis

Having this *zoe* dwell in a person because their hearts embrace the Source of it, believe in the Author of it, have faith or confidence in the original Possessor of it, is what causes them to possess eternal life, the result of abiding or living every day in it.

Here are other verses that talk about the *zoe* life:

John 5:21, *“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.”*

John 5:26, *“For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.”*

John 17:3, *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Having eternal life is linked to “knowing” God, as in “and Adam knew Eve and she conceived and had a baby.” We cannot “know” God but in spirit, by spirit, rather by Spirit. Otherwise in our minds, in theology and doctrine we can only know ABOUT Him, and so we can only be mental hearers and are not yet truly alive in spirit with *zoe*.

So having eternal life is not so much about having your name on a list in heaven somewhere. It is more about having a personal possession within you here on earth. It is not only a matter of a record externally, but really it is a presence abiding internally.

We get Born Again to start this process and then GROW UP into Christlikeness as we abide and walk in it.

We step into glory by being born again and grow up in it, into even more glory, so we go from glory to glory in a way of thinking. But we also change from exposure to His glory as it rubs off onto us, causing us to reflect His glory.

2 Corinthians 3:18, *“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.” (ASV)*

And this is what happens in spiritual communion, we behold Him, and so come to *know* him, and so are transformed into children who resemble Him!

So we also see our maturing is the transferring of Glory, from Him to us, Glory to glory! We can also think of it as the transference of grace, from His Spirit into our spirits.

But only such personal spirit-to-Spirit contact will achieve these results. Only worship *in spirit and in truth* will do this.

This is the process of receiving the *zoe* from God in greater and greater measure which transforms our mortal selves into being filled with eternal life.

This is how the Scriptures talk about redemption. Once we are born, then we can start to grow. So the first step is indeed being born again, but the next is to grow towards maturity in this new identity that was only begun at the new birth. It is the maturity of the new self, the one made to be like Christ, which takes time, focus, desire, seeking and perseverance in the things of God—basically to stay plugged into the source of Life and Grace.

Here are some verses:

John 3:5-6, 15-16, 36

⁵*“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”*

...
¹⁵*“... that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

...
³⁶*“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”*

Being born of the *zoe*, the Spirit of *zoe*, the Holy Spirit, is the start of the process.

John 5:37-39

³⁷*“And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, ³⁸nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. ³⁹**You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”***

Yes, people can read, memorize and even preach the written “word” but still miss having the indwelling of LIFE that the textual word of the Scriptures points them towards. This ‘living word’ is not a mental decision, but a heart possession.

John 6:53-54

⁵³*“Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴**Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”***

Most people think of this in a natural literal sense, that if we only do the communion ceremony then we will have eternal life, **but this is not the same thing as feeding on the Spirit of Life in communion in spiritual truth.** So we are not talking about a symbolic indwelling because of partaking in a symbolic food ceremony, because such a food ceremony only symbolizes the real spiritual activity, interaction and transformation that actually brings eternal spiritual life. No, we eat or consume Him in spirit—as spiritual food, or grace—and are changed.

We MUST distinguish the ceremony from the reality, which is why the Bible makes a clear distinction between the two:

Hebrews 13:9, *“Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.”*

Communion is Fellowship with the Holy Spirit

The ceremony we call communion which rightly commemorates the event that restored eternal life to us, is very different than real spiritual communion, which is the result of possessing this eternal life. (We'll talk more about this in just a few pages.) But we must make a clear distinction between the physical realm and the spiritual reality of the Kingdom Jesus demonstrated.

So once we are born anew, born with newness of life of the seed of God's Spirit, the process of growing in spiritual maturity of the new creation starts. This is also called the maturing of the 'new self' which these two verses talk about.

Ephesians 4:22-24

*²² "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴**and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**"*

Colossians 3:9-11

*⁹"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰**and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.** ¹¹Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all."*

I think this is what is meant by the reward to overcomers of the satanic control system of Pergamum, the "new name" is a new identity which is not based on our earthly past but is a mystery hidden in Christ.

Revelations 2:17, *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it."*

So what Christ has come to do is repair what went wrong with Adam and Eve, and return us to a place of union with God in spirit by restoring *zoe* eternal life to us, we can enjoy fellowship with God *as a person* once more.

This is done on earth through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, because of Christ's sacrifice, all to achieve the Father's will. It is actually all very simple.

But to understand the way this operates in our lives in a more practical sense, let's now look more closely at the nature of the Holy Spirit and His operation on earth in man.

Chapter 2

What is the Holy Spirit?

The source of Life is the Spirit of Life, the Holy Spirit. This is clear from Scripture:

John 4:10 *“Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you **living water.**”*

This verse is where Jesus was speaking to the Samaritan woman, showing her the path to the restoration of fellowship with God, telling her soon after this quote, in **John 4:23-24**,

²³“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Then we can consider **John 7:37-39** where Jesus loudly proclaimed during the Feast of Tabernacles, which incorporated daily outpourings of water, that He was the source of water, again *living water*, to quench their thirst.

John 7:37-39

³⁷“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.’ ³⁹By

this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."

The gospel author says plainly that the Holy Spirit is like a stream or river of living water pouring out of believers who receive the Pentecostal experience. This indwelling of the Holy Spirit in people is a literal, albeit spiritual fact. It is a real experience, not just a symbolic idea or something nice to say.

And then we can consider **John 6:63**,

"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."

And so where does the Holy Spirit dwell on earth?

The Holy Spirit is characterized as water, wind, fire but in essence He is the source of all Life, especially the spiritual life we can enjoy in and through Christ. This is why He is called living water, or the breath of God—in fact the Holy Spirit is LIFE itself.

And this Life dwells on the earth with man—actually IN men and women. This has been the case especially since the ascension of Jesus to heaven.

John 14:15-17

¹⁵*"If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*

This also explains why so many people just flat out deny the reality of the Holy Spirit, **because their minds are joined to the darkness of the world and they cannot accept the unseen truth of the Spirit of God.**

What is very interesting is that such people cannot accept the unseen truth of the Holy Spirit, but they can and do freely accept

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as truth other unseen things, some true some not, such as demons, UFO's and aliens, spirit guides, karma, magic, and all kinds of things. Isn't that unfortunate!?

And let's further consider **John 14:25-26**,

²⁵*"All this I have spoken while still with you.* ²⁶**But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."**

One of the main aspects of this indwelling is communication; here Jesus specifically mentions the Holy Spirit teaching us new things and reminding us of things we've already heard Him say, which most likely is a reference to reminding us of what we've previously read in the Bible, but also what God has spoken to us personally, even years afterward when the interpretation of a word is presented or the fulfillment of a promise occurs.

All of this is God's 'word' spoken to us, sometimes eternal, archetypal, universal, sometimes personal, temporary, specific, but it is still something the Lord desires *to speak* to us.

And **John 15:26**

²⁶*"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me."*

This Spirit is meant to preach to us, to testify about Jesus to us. Why? To lead us into a deep 'knowing' of Him, a deep personal experience of Him in spirit and in truth. Why? Because that's the kind of relationships God wants.

And if you are concerned that maybe this gift of communion was only intended for the disciples, think of this: Who is the Holy Spirit testifying TO? The next verse says the disciples were to *also* testify, so the Holy Spirit was not testifying only to them, but to others, new believers, even unbelievers, even us! This is clearly not only for the 12!

Communion is Fellowship with the Holy Spirit

And furthermore, **John 16:12-13**

¹²*“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

From these few sections we see a clear picture emerging. The Holy Spirit was sent to us when Jesus left, and He is to be our constant companion, and especially our teacher in Jesus' place. He, the Holy Spirit, is to be IN us, and will explain all things to us—especially the truth contained in the Scriptures; that is, the correct interpretation of truth contained in the Scriptures—to guide us, meaning to coach or train us, and even to tell us of the future, which is the main purpose of prophecy, especially in the classical sense.

This is even more clear in **1 John 2:27**,

*“As for you, the anointing you received from him **remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things** and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”*

Here John is talking to regular believers, probably thirty to fifty maybe even *seventy* years after Jesus' death and resurrection. These are third, fourth or even fifth generation believers—far more than the original few who knew Jesus in person.

And it was this 'indwelling anointing' of the Holy Spirit which was what kept talking to Paul and was what taught him everything he needed to know to be a servant of Christ, including the gospel he preached, and even how he was to administer it, talking of which he wrote **Galatians 1:12**,

“I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”

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And **1 Corinthians 2:1-13**, which we discussed in chapter 3 of *Foundations of the Kingdom*, where Paul basically says:

I didn't preach eloquently to you, but demonstrated God's Spirit and power so your faith would be in God not in man's wisdom ... we did teach among the mature but only of the spiritual wisdom God taught us, since we have been given His Spirit to show us the things God has freely given us, and so that is what we talked about...

Paul was taught by God directly what to minister, and also HOW to minister it. We should follow the same preparation and method if we want to build the same Kingdom!

This teaching from the Holy Spirit comes as general revelation, and spiritual insight from the Holy Spirit to our spirits, sometimes without us knowing it is God, and it may also come as a vague 'leading' feeling ... but we can also experience God's teaching to us openly even in conversation and in response to our direct questions. It is not always vague and passive.

And in my opinion, based on my experience, being openly taught by God is the best way, and in all honesty, the **ONLY** way we can be properly equipped as true ministers of His Kingdom.

People can teach us some ideas, but we still have to go to the source to get it *first hand* if we want it to be powerful and effective, especially as ministers.

We can 'sense' some things vaguely, and can make some daily choices by intangible 'leadings' ... but to be able to teach with correct understanding of God's will, and know we are doing so, we need clear revelation that we know is from God and enlightens us truly, or we will lack confidence in what we teach ... or we will confidently teach lies.

We cannot afford either. We cannot teach from guesswork. And so **WE NEED** clear revelation to be teachers, and we also therefore need to teach this clear revelation as well.

In fact, this is what the earlier chapter in *Foundations*, chapter four, on teaching from revelation, was all about.

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And so we can understand why Paul prays for direct revelation from God for the people he ministered to in **Ephesians 1:17**,

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”

It is this receiving of the direct personal ministry of the Spirit of the Lord that brings wisdom and revelation, communication, teaching, prophecy ... but WHY? Yes, we may begin seeking revelation for a lower, temporary purpose, to acquire mundane knowledge or carnal security ... **but this is not the true purpose of divine revelation.**

Notice here that the reason for being given the spirits of wisdom and revelation is not just to know about stuff, **but really it is to know God**—it is “so that you may know Him better.”

In truth, being taught by the Holy Spirit is the **ONLY** way to really become personally acquainted with the Lord, and in many ways it is the real way He wants us to learn most all things.

The Holy Spirit does not teach by academic lessons, so much as by **IMPARTATION** of revelation. **Spiritual understanding, especially knowing God, is not taught like conventional facts are transferred, but is implanted as seeds into the soil of our spirits as we seek to ‘know’ Him and abide in Him.**

So this Holy Spirit, this Spirit of Life, dwells on earth in people, not in temples or buildings, but in humans.

This is clear from **1 Corinthians 3:16**,

“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”

And ultimately this Holy Spirit is in us to teach us who God is so that we will ‘know’ Him in truth.

More than a 'what' – God's mind, will and emotions

Now obviously, the Holy Spirit is more than a WHAT.

It, or rather He, is LIFE in essence. He moves like wind, or water or fire. He is the POWER of GOD, and He is the Breath of God, the River of Life, the abiding anointing or presence of the Lord ... but this is all too abstract to help people understand how to *relate* to Him.

So when we lead others through communion as a way to minister to them we often like to ask some simple questions about the Holy Spirit to open up their hearts to the potential of unveiled communication with God *as a person*.

What we may ask is simply, "What is the Holy Spirit?"

Now, they may say any number of things, but what we want to lead them towards is the understanding that **the Holy Spirit, for purposes of communion, is God's full personality, his memory, his desires and intentions, his knowledge of the past, present and future—his mind, will and emotions**. We need to express the presence of the Holy Spirit in relational terms, to explain our ability to relate to Him.

In one way the Lord explained to me, the Holy Spirit is God's soul.

Telling people, "The Holy Spirit is a fire, so let's go talk with Him," will confuse people more than it will help them open up. Of course He IS Fire, a Consuming Fire, but we don't normally talk with fire and so it is not something people can easily relate to.

But God, as a person, has a personality, has opinions, has ideas, desires, has intentions towards us to comfort us, heal us, teach us, mature us. **People need to link the intention of God to interact with us, with the Holy Spirit as the practical means of interaction. So yes, you can think of it as the Holy Spirit being God's SOUL—his mind, his will and his emotions**. So the Holy Spirit being able to be near you, even IN you, will allow you to FEEL the presence of his soul, and interact with his emotions, desires, passions, thoughts and feelings.

I am sure that is going to ruffle some feathers. People don't like to ascribe such human attributes as a *soul* to God, do we? But the Bible does.

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God mentions his *soul* about 14 times in the Bible, which some versions, like the NIV, replace with a mere personal pronoun—‘I’—in all but two verses:

Psalm 11:5, and especially poignant is **Isaiah 1:14**,

*“Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts **my soul hates**. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.”*

Psalm 11:5

*“The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence **his soul hates**.”*

In other versions the Lord speaks of his soul hating or being pleased with people or having some other feeling or reaction in Leviticus 26:11, 26:30; Judges 10:16; Jeremiah 5:9, 5:29, 6:8, 12:7, 14:19, 32:41; Ezekiel 23:18; and in the New Testament twice, once in **Matthew 12:18**,

*“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen; **My beloved in whom my soul is well pleased**: I will put my Spirit upon him, And he shall declare judgment to the Gentiles.” (ASV)*

And in **Hebrews 10:38**

*“But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, **my soul hath no pleasure in him**.” (ASV)*

You may want to discuss this a little if people have a problem with the idea, but in truth God is not a robot; He is a very emotional being—uncontaminated emotionally unlike a natural human is, but even our soul is eternal, meaning in heaven we will have our mind, will and emotions, our personalities intact—restored to their unblemished form, but intact.

God has a soul, and for the purposes of communion, talking or fellowshiping with Him, the Holy Spirit is it. So when we fellowship with the Holy Spirit, we are able to enjoy the full company of the Lord, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, and in every way that we can connect.

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This interaction happens on a dimension above the realm of the human soul. It happens in our spirits, since God is spirit, so **God's soul is spirit**, so when we interact with Him we are still having a spiritual encounter, not a soulish one.

Yes, that gets a little murky to people without a clear grasp of human spirit vs. human soul, but they'll get the hang of it soon enough. God's living word, the Holy Spirit, can divide between these two parts of Man, and He will soon clarify it to those who want to understand.

Hebrews 4:12, *"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates **even to dividing soul and spirit**, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."*

Chapter 3

Our *Koinonia* is with the Father

What this leads us to is finally the idea of *communion*.

The word we translate into English as ‘communion’ is the Greek word *koinonia*, which is used to refer to three different things: human fellowship, a food ceremony, and a kind of spiritual fellowship we can have with God.

When this term is used to indicate human fellowship, *koinonia* is clear. It can simply mean a kind of sharing, community or having something in common with other people.

When *koinonia* is used to refer to the ceremony or ritual of the Lord’s Supper, a symbolic act that reminds us of Christ’s sacrifice it is also fairly straightforward.

However, *koinonia* is also the word used to describe a kind of Spirit-to-spirit fellowship, one that is the result of the restoration of the *zoe* within us, the abiding presence of the Spirit of God. In this case, *koinonia* is not another term for a human community or a food ceremony **but a personal spiritual encounter with God.**

Human-to-human fellowship is straightforward enough and I don’t find people mistaking that for a real personal spiritual encounter with God. **But most Christians do completely substitute the ceremonial aspects of *koinonia* for the experience of spiritual union with Him**, and so I like to make the distinction between these last two aspects of *koinonia* VERY clear.

I primarily prefer to use the term the *Lord’s Supper* for the ceremony. The ceremony is only that, a symbolic acting out of the spiritual reality—there is no power inherent in a ritual or ceremony.

Communion is Fellowship with the Holy Spirit

Hebrews 13:9, *“Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, **which are of no value to those who eat them.**”*

There is no inherent power in the Eucharist, in taking the elements, in eating the bread and wine, the ‘body and blood’ of the Lord in the physical sense.

People experience His presence during the ceremony – **but this is only because it is at that moment that they open their hearts to his touch.** Such people have been largely taught that it is only at that moment that God’s presence will come close to them, even entering them, but such people have also largely been taught they are not allowed to access his presence or grace except at that moment, during that ceremony, administered by a priest or ‘ordained’ leader, in a meeting of the congregation of other believers, usually in a special building, on a special day. This bondage enslaves the people to a system: if they want a touch from God, they can get it, but only through this regimented, highly structured and controlled system.

In truth Christ is with these same people ALL DAY, EVERY DAY and they can receive the same touch of God’s presence and grace whenever they want it, anytime, anywhere! If they only knew it, and opened their hearts to Him, they would find Him omnipresent, ever ready to meet with them in personal union.

So sure, partake of the physical communion elements, receive the sacrament, bond with your brothers and sisters, show your membership within the community of believers, and experience the peace and grace of the Lord when you eat the ceremonial foods, **but understand it is not the foods that are giving you the grace, but God**, who you can approach any time day or night without the ceremonial pomp and get the same touch of grace. So enjoy the ceremony of communion, but understand there is much more to communion than a ceremony. Do the ritual, but also seek to enjoy the spiritual aspects of communion beyond the ritual.

Actually, you need to be a little wise in taking the communion ceremony as well. This is not something I want to get into here

very deeply, but some people who administer communion do so as an act of witchcraft.

I won't go into this now, but yes, communion as a Christian sacrament is used by the enemy to bind and pollute many people through satanic rituals performed under the guise of Christian worship, right under our noses!

Other times, while not real witchcraft, it is administered in a spirit of dead religion, but this is still the spirit of anti-Christ, which we talked about in the second introduction section of *Foundations*, which binds people and even blinds them to the truth.

Communion, the ceremony, is a wonderful, solemn time to reflect upon the Lord, honor Him and strengthen the bonds of the community of believers. Don't let the enemy ruin it for you. Be wise to discern what is going on, and never walk in fear. But beyond all this, the main point I want to make is that communion the ceremony is only a reflection, a shadow of the reality of real spiritual union with God, and the reality is in Christ for us to experience, even right now on earth. (Colossians 2:17)

So the communion or *koinonia* that we are most interested in is the real spiritual encounter, which is the real heart of our redemption and the source of our Christian fellowship, first with God, and then with other believers.

1 John 1:3-7

³*"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship [koinonia] with us. **And our fellowship [koinonia] is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.***

⁴*"We write this to make our joy complete.*

⁵*"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship [koinonia] with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship [koinonia] with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**"*

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This is the *real* spiritual communion, which first starts with the *koinonia* with the Spirit of God—not a ceremony but the real spiritual encounter—and then which leads us to enjoy human fellowship with others who have also encountered the same spiritual *koinonia*—so we can become part of a community held together in the bond of the unity of the spirit.

I try to distinguish this spiritual *koinonia* with the Father and the Son, Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, by referring to it as *spiritual communion*, or *spiritual fellowship*, or *fellowship with God in spirit*, or something of that nature.

It is THIS communion that we now spend most of our ministry time training people to enjoy and ministering to people through, and which we have been building up in this teaching towards explaining and guiding you into more fully.

Beware of the different kinds of unity

So our real fellowship, the *koinonia* that is so special as a Christian, is the fellowship that we can have with the Father in spirit and in truth. Enjoying this spiritual fellowship not only transforms us, but also will cause us to share something unique and spiritual with all those other people who have also had spiritual fellowship with the Father. And it is this unique quality which is the spiritual bond of ‘unity not of man’ that ties together the human communities of true believers.

But not all unity, even in the community of the saints, is born out of this *koinonia* with the Father. There is also a carnal counterfeit operating right here alongside the true one as well!

This is something the Lord specifically explained to my wife and then to myself that really opened our eyes, which is that there are at least two different kinds of ‘unity’ operating in the community of believers.

Yes, there is the real unity of the Spirit of God, the one that comes out of our *koinonia* with the Father.

But there is also the common unity of man, a corrupted unity that operates wholly within the carnal realm which unites those with common purposes who cooperate to achieve common goals, even religious goals. **This ‘unity of man’ is what led the people to**

build the Tower of Babel. And like the fate of Babel, what this 'unity' builds, God will ultimately destroy.

The real spiritual unity is what Apostle John is talking about in the above verse of 1 John 1:3-7, **which only starts with having a fellowship in spirit with the Father** and it is this unity that is the spiritual bond of peace and love that led to the human community being of one heart and mind before the outpouring at Pentecost was released—they are opposites of each other.

The real unity is the mark of true disciples, but the *false* unity is however unfortunately much more common.

The other thing we notice is that these two 'unities' or communities are in conflict with each other most of the time since they operate under opposing dynamics, opposing spiritual powers and opposing motives, methods and goals. The flesh is at war with the Spirit, and so even though most churches proclaim 'we're all about unity among believers,' **without distinguishing the unity of man from the unity of the Spirit, a fatal mixture of flesh and spirit will pollute all that such a community builds or stands for.**

We must protect the unity of the Spirit, but to do so we have to make a DIVISION away from the 'unity' of the world, the flesh and the works of carnal man, otherwise we have the same unity or community bond that unbelievers have in companies, political parties, and pagan religious groups. This is a clear biblical insight:

Matthew 10:34, *"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."*

Matthew 13:49, *"This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous."*

1 Corinthians 11:18-19

¹⁸*"In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval."*

2 Corinthians 6:14, *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?”*

With this understanding we become more able to see the two communities of the sheep and the goats, the wise and the unwise virgins of Matthew 25, for what they truly are, enabling us to join with the sheep, and teach others likewise.

The blessings of the Unity of the Spirit

There are many obvious benefits of walking in the spirit—and avoiding the works of the flesh, especially the counterfeit works.

But one the greatest blessings of entering into the real spiritual fellowship with the Father is that the promises of Christ begin to manifest in our lives and we become eligible to walk in the reality of the Kingdom on earth, and especially to become able to meet and know God in person. This is Psalm 133, which teaches us that the unity of Spirit is rewarded by God with special blessings.

Psalm 133

¹*A song of ascents. Of David.*

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ²It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down upon the collar of his robes. ³It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Aaron the high priest was someone who had intimate access to the Lord. The reference to his priestly robes probably talks of being ‘robed’ with Christ-likeness, being like Christ in character. This is because of God’s consecration and anointing of him, but it allows him to enter into His presence and so fellowship with God as well, which brings another depth of blessings.

So we see this spiritual unity, which God empowers us to enjoy, opens the doors to even greater blessings, ultimately the anointing of intimacy, and “his blessing, even life forevermore.”

But spiritual unity is first a blessing that comes from God, created by God's Spirit in us and in our communities—it is not something men with 'common purposes' can somehow produce as if the works of the flesh could ever produce the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

So the unity of the spirit is caused by the Holy Spirit, in people who are walking in the spirit, not in people who are walking in the flesh, but in people whose lives are IN Him. But the unity of the spirit is also a key to greater blessings from the Lord.

Surely the depths of the inheritance of the saints in Christ are wonderful and rich, and we come to discover them more, the more we get to know the Lord in person, in spirit and in truth!

So being able to talk with God in person, to hang out with Him, to be taught by Him, to be healed in heart by Him, to be comforted and have our new identities implanted and confirmed within us by Him—to *know* God—is the supreme joy of experiencing the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the real goal of the Kingdom of God on earth.

There is no better personal joy available to people on earth than experiencing fellowship with the Father ... except for—as the Apostle John said—sharing it with other people.

1 John 1:3b-4

... our fellowship [koinonia] is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

⁴We write this to make our joy complete.

How we first encountered this Communion

Our understanding of this kind of active fellowshiping with the Lord in spirit did not come overnight, not by a long shot. In fact my journey from my first experience of it to actually understanding and then becoming able to teach and coach people to be able to experience it for themselves took me nearly 20 years! It was worth going through all we had to in order to find it, but now we can show people what we've found very easily and quickly.

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Anyway, this is how we learned what communion is all about.

First, many years ago, I met some ministers from Ireland who seemingly just through spiritual discipline, fasting, worship and simple devotion had developed their ability to hear from God in conversation in their hearts all day long. Talking with one of them was like having a three-way conversation, only the third person was invisible and who I could not hear.

They also operated in very strong divine healing, inner healing and other manifestations of the Kingdom—only they couldn't teach me to walk in any of these things. As far as they knew, if I fasted every other day for several years like them, then one day it would rub off on me and just start to work too. They couldn't explain it to me more than that! And believe me, I asked!

So needless to say, years and years went by without me discovering this kind of spiritual communication in my own life.

Meanwhile I still functioned in a gift of prophecy that allowed me to hear God speak to me, and He would teach me simple things, bit by bit, or give me prophecies that would normally be years and years in being fulfilled, or prophetic dreams. But this communication was very passive on my end; I would never really know when God was going to give me a vision or dream, and it was never delivered to me in a conversation beyond maybe a simple question or answer.

I'd kept having a very keen spiritual discernment, and would know most of the spiritual things that went on around me—I would sense a demon was near and usually know what kind of demon it was, or would know if a person was lying or having some kind of personal issues; sometimes I would know when the phone would ring and who it would be, or simple things like that around me, but it was nothing that felt like I was having *fellowship* with GOD; it was nothing like having a two-way conversation—it was not Communion.

Then one day my wife began to hear God in conversation in her heart—and boy was I upset! To that point she was basically still very “traditional” in her religious views and attitudes. When it came to spiritual things there was always a tension between us—she had no grid to understand the things I spoke of, like, “God told me to do this or that crazy thing.” Or why one way of following

God was any better or worse than another ... Then one morning God started to speak to her in an open, interactive way. He was just talking with her about her life, answering her questions but in real time, and instead of being only profound mysteries it was just mostly chatting with her and talking about her friends, about me, about His plans for her and us, about our daughter ... even about our pets!

Like I said, honestly, I felt jealous; I don't mind admitting. I felt passed over and was frankly a little put out!

Then at that very moment when I was privately fuming in the corner He spoke to me through her, saying, "And God says, 'Don't be jealous!'"

"What? I'm not jealous!" I lied.

"God says, 'Yes, you are. **But don't be because I speak to everyone in their own way...**'"

Well that made it even worse! His way of speaking to me was this passive, mysterious, keep-me-at-arms'-length routine, but HERS was like having private access, a personal FRIENDSHIP with Him!

I felt ill.

But then He spoke and gave us a key, but it still took us years to understand how to use it, but when we discovered it, it changed our lives.

He continued, "**However, everyone can hear my voice in their hearts if they would just quiet themselves down and listen.**"

This simple key is what we are now going to show you.

That period of discovery for us was simply amazing. Cheryl started having Jesus just talk with her during the day and teach her deep mysteries even at night as she slept as well. Either alone at the beach, or on the bus, or cooking in the kitchen, or standing in line somewhere, He was there talking with her. Sometimes she'd actually catch herself talking back to Him as if He was there physically, and wondered if people thought she was crazy!

He'd even teach her things from the Scriptures that she had never read. And she'd tell me something He told her, hoping to surprise me, since it was always so shocking to her, and I'd say, "Oh sure, that's in the book of John," or wherever. But really, the Holy Spirit taught her the Bible. Then she'd start reading it herself

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and He would talk her through much of it as well, teaching her what things really mean! I learned so much from Him through her!

So this was really a special time for us, and things went on like that for a little while: My wife still hearing God quietly in her heart, and I, still operating in a gift of prophecy, until something odd began happening to me.

My gift began to dry up.

So did my discernment.

Yet, I wasn't backsliding, quite the opposite. I was growing in the Lord more than I had ever walked before!

This coincided primarily with a lot of inner healing that I was experiencing, mostly through the Cleansing Stream ministry that we were working with. Every time we'd go through the inner healing and deliverance retreat I'd get more free, more whole—but my gift and discernment would also get dialed down a notch. I began to understand this was not coincidental, but was linked.

Previously I would hear and sense very passively, but increasingly from this time as the image of God in my heart became more accurate and I became more able to let God love me, my gift, which was a crutch in a way, began to wane. And whereas before I was able to hear God passively through my gift, **I suddenly started having to seek Him out to hear from Him and learn things from Him intentionally** instead.

This happened at least three separate times and I began to see the clear pattern. The more able I was to approach God in spirit, the more I trusted Him, the more I knew Him, the less my 'crutch' gifts would operate and the more I *had* to approach God and spend time with Him to enjoy the same kind of communication I had before.

In fact my communication increased and at one point during this time the Lord invited me to serve Him as a Prophet, which I accepted, and He also told me that the number of prophecies I would soon get would be too many to write them all down.

Before I had a very clear record of everything He told me over the years since it was only a dream now and then, or a revelation maybe as long as a sentence or two a month ... or a year in some cases. After I learned or rather was healed enough to believe that I could seek Him earnestly and openly, I started to see visions whenever I sought Him, especially during worship or prayer,

which I also started doing more and more often since it was beginning to be so interesting and rewarding.

Instead of being passive in my communication with God, I started becoming more of an active participant in our relationship. I traded in a gift, at least for a time, and got a friendship.

So having God lead me to honestly and openly seek Him was a much healthier spiritual lifestyle than operating in a strong gift that did not require me to walk with God actively to communicate with Him—but as good as it was at this point it was still not yet what we now call Communion. That was about to come....

Discovering Mark Virkler's 'Prayer Journaling'

It was then that we discovered Mark Virkler. This was the single most important and practical teaching we had ever heard, which even continues to bear fruit in our lives, and in a way is the foundation of our teaching on Communion.

Mark has been teaching people to hear God's voice for themselves for something like 30 years and it was exactly what our hearts longed for.

We discovered Mark while publishing our prophetic journal *the Hong Kong Intercessor* (HKI) and I really want to give credit to and in a way endorse Mark's ministry, at least the core message he teaches on how to hear God's voice and how accessible it is for every believer.

You can visit his site at www.cwgministreis.com and I encourage you to do so. There are many free resources and other affordable ones there that are very good.

But I'd also like to explain his basic teaching on hearing God, which the Lord showed him from **Habakkuk 2:1-2**,

"I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

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²“Then the LORD replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.”

This is the crux of Mark’s teaching:

First, be still, and ‘stand at your post’ attentively seeking to listen to the Lord. We talk about getting in a holy quietness, a prayerful stillness, but most importantly is to relax in the Holy Spirit and stop talking. God knows what you are going to say, and most of us can’t hear God’s voice honestly because we won’t stop talking! So peace and quietness is the first step!

Second, be open to God speaking to you, which will not usually come as an audible voice, but as a flow of spontaneous Visions, Emotions and Thoughts from the Holy Spirit to your listening heart. We need to focus on listening to what we hear, see and feel in our deep hearts, especially those things that bear the mark, the sound, the smell, the feel of the Holy Spirit’s presence or ‘voice.’

Third, stay fixed in the focus of the eyes of our hearts upon Jesus, literally, and that helps us to avoid impurity, mixture and distractions in our inner heart when we are listening to God speak. We often tell people to start things off by focusing their attention on an internal image or picture of Jesus. The Holy Spirit meets us there and then starts to animate the image as we tune into his presence and flow of thoughts (images, words and impressions).

Fourth, as God told Habakkuk, it is important to “write the vision and make it plain” because EVERYTHING needs to be tested, not only what you hear and see, but what it means and what you are supposed to do about it. Testing involves skepticism and an amount of doubt, but doing this while the Spirit is flowing and speaking to you or showing you something will derail and block your flow. **Instead, it is better to write it down as it happens in the Spirit, and then test it later when the flow stops**; share it with a friend, and pray for confirmation, clarity and interpretation.

What Mark’s teaching did for us is hard to quantify. We started being able to have the confidence (faith) to consistently approach

God to speak with Him and have Him teach us, guide us and comfort us consciously whenever we wanted to. Having a passive gift of prophecy is no substitute. And my personality or attitude in approaching God was actually quite timid, never knowing if He would talk to me—I had confidence issues.

I knew the scriptures that God's thoughts to us are like the sand if they could be counted, but my belief was that He was upset at me for my sinfulness ... yes I admit it, that was what was really in my heart.

God healed and delivered me of this over time, and in no small part because of my new found confidence to boldly go to the Throne to seek help in times of need, and to ask for wisdom when I didn't know what to do, no longer fearing God would punish me for my ignorance or weakness, or that I was not trying hard enough to live right, or whatever.

What is interesting is that the substance of my interactions with the Lord in spiritual communion had very little to do with my calling to serve as a Prophet. My personal interaction with God was and still is mostly for my personal growth, edification and training, and not often the substance of my service as a 'Prophet.'

In **1 Corinthians 14** the Bible says, "Ye ALL may prophesy," and even "be eager to prophesy," and this is for general encouragement, teaching, training and helping people grow ... but only some are called to be 'Prophets' who are tasked with the responsibility to handle more serious matters like wrestling with spiritual 'principalities' that afflict a church or region, or confronting errant church or city or national leadership, or unleashing the Kingdom against the enemies of God—which is all actually the very same thing if you really think about it.

But also anyone can be called into the task or office of a prophet at any time, even you!

So I began to see my service as a Prophet, my mantle, was more about the TASK of doing things like bringing correction and insight to leadership, protection to the community and equipping to the saints—more about how I could help than the method I received revelation or understanding—I was then more able to treat it as a job than an identity, which helped me be more able to switch tasks,

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accept humble tasks, and not feel the need to defend or promote my position of being a Prophet. Being a Prophet has an upside and a downside. It's not all a bed of roses by any means.

Anyway ... meanwhile my dreams were much the same, but as I started being able to hear God for longer periods of time when I wanted to spend time with Him or had a pressing question, and was able to hear more detailed instructions and longer prophecies than I did when I was only operating in my gift, but was distant from God in heart, I grew more as a son.

My time in prayer was now mostly spent going to God, approaching Him to discover His personality and explore His world, than just reading off a list of needs and walking away.

Prayer became something I could do for longer and longer periods of time since it was so interesting, interactive and refreshing.

God still speaks to me in my own way, and sometimes when I go to Him He doesn't speak much at all, but lets me soak in His presence, to be strengthened and filled with the fruit of the spirit. Other times I've been allowed to visit heaven and even peer through the spirit into other places on earth where I have ministry interests or people I am praying for, usually at will.

Paul said as much to the Corinthians,

1 Corinthians 5:3-4

*³"Even though I am not physically present, **I am with you in spirit.** And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. ⁴When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus **and I am with you in spirit,** and the power of our Lord Jesus is present..."*

Paul was not there in good wishes; he was there in reality, looking around, seeing what was going on first hand, only not in his body **but in his spirit.** Until you experience this, it probably

makes no sense, but I am sure you soon will, since it's an important and common way the Lord works.

TM (transcendental meditation, bi-location, astral projection, or whatever you call it) is in many ways the counterfeit of this Holy Spirit enabled prayer experience. The way TM works is through a strong spiritual tie to a 'spirit guide' who will claim to be the spirit of an ascended human but is actually a fallen angel (demon) in disguise who will possess the practitioner, and open their spiritual eyes but only through that demonic being's filter, so they can't see the spiritual world as it really is, but only as that demon allows them to see it. And this will also cause many of the side-effects of possession: nightmares, tormenting spirits, illness, uneasiness, and in many people insanity. God can free you from this easily; and in a way of thinking, God knows many people get mixed up in this kind of thing and suffer the consequences for many years, which is why Jesus manifested himself to us, to destroy the works of the devil, specifically including the bondage caused by illegal spiritual experimentation.

But what the Holy Spirit does for us legitimately in prayer, enabling us to visit God's Throne, or Heaven, or the Throne of Grace, or a green heavenly pasture where our souls / emotions are restored, or seeing other parts of the earth where our family or friends are in need of our prayers, or just having angels and the Holy Spirit cover us with God's wings, soothe our weary hearts, and enlighten us with hope and faith—all the supernatural things God does come with no negative side-effects. It's ALL GOOD!

Many people fear the spiritual world because they fear getting mixed up with Satan's power since man has no natural means to escape it once they are caught up in it, but people also fear the legitimate areas of Godly interaction as well which I think is mostly because Satan sends them spirits of fear to make them pull back from God's real interactive fellowship.

God IS Spirit and those who want to be real worshippers of Him MUST worship Him in Spirit. No, we don't all need to visit heaven or have prophetic experiences to be a real, sincere worshipper, but God gave you spiritual eyes for a reason. God opens them for a

reason. We can trust God that He has a good reason for leading us in this way.

The Lord was telling my wife recently that **it is wise to understand what the enemy is doing, but we are *blessed* when we can see what God is doing.**

May your eyes be opened, may the Lord impart the grace of strength to you to build you up in love to be able to perceive God's presence and love and to *know* Him in personal union.

Eyes open to demonic vision

When spiritual eyes are opened by a demonic encounter—witchcraft, a curse, etc.—people tend to only see demons who begin to harass and torment them. This is also a counterfeit vision. People should not normally see either angels or demons, but when they only see demons, their eyes are not truly opened, since if they were, they'd probably see twice as much angelic activity as demonic activity. They'd at least see both sides of the ongoing conflict. To only see demons, and to only see them in a way that causes fear and torment is a sign of satan's works.

This is very common in the developing world—Africa, much of Asia, South America, etc.—but it will be increasingly common in the developed world as more and more people dabble in illegal spiritual activities, witchcraft and the like, even yoga.

If this is something you deal with or know someone who deals with, **you have the power in Christ to 'reverse' such a problem, causing the person to stop having their eyes only open to satan, but to be open properly to God instead.** Such a person may have a calling or gift to be a prophet or some type of spiritually gifted minister, which is often why satan attacked them in the area of spiritual vision in the first place—in hopes of permanently polluting and frightening them, so they would not be able to walk in their real callings and gifts. Satan knows your potential, often better than you do, and he fears you finding it!

Simply put, you have the power to reverse this, to bind satan's operation, cast it out, close their spiritual eyes to satanic spiritual vision, and then to release the Kingdom and the gifts of God, opening their eyes to see the Lord, to see his angels, to understand

their authority within God's Kingdom over the works of the enemy, etc. **Seeing a demon as a demon wants to be seen is always deception. Seeing a demon in God's spiritual sight will reveal their true nature and weakness, and God's real power and presence as well.** It is not that in God's vision we see angels and nothing else, but it does seem to be that in God's vision we can see things as God wants us to see them, as they truly are. If God feels you don't need to bother with seeing too many things, to keep you focused on your walk or task or whatever then God will filter what you see. Seeing the whole spiritual world is a burden and the few people who have such a gift talk about needing time to learn to cope with it. But if this is you, God will empower, train and equip you to function as you are called, even if it is a greater or more weighty calling than others may have. Take it seriously, but don't be burdened—at the end of the day it's just a job! The real pleasure is still coming to know God in spirit and in truth. The rest—the angels, the demons, the healings, the miracles, the prophecies, the spiritual experiences—it's all just details...

A realm beyond Gifting

So I really used to think ministry in the Kingdom was all about having *gifts*. And worse, I didn't know you could ask God for gifts so easily and that He would just give them to you so liberally. I really didn't know what was going on. When I started to believe that we were allowed to ask for gifts and we could actually receive them, I was elated, but I still didn't understand the bigger picture.

Then we had a prayer meeting and week by week we'd see that every single person was getting visions and prophecies from the Holy Spirit—100%. I tried to understand this. Did EVERYONE have the gift of prophecy? No, that made no sense. It was something else at work. I do think a *spirit of prophecy* can be in a meeting where anyone coming in can start to prophesy, but I don't even think this was it either. I think people were just seeking to meet with Jesus and since they really wanted to be with Him in heart, in spirit, in truth ... well that's all it took to be able to speak with Him.

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Have you ever wondered about gifts in the 12 Apostles, or even in Jesus? There is NO RECORD of them ever discussing it in that way. I mean did Jesus have the *gift* of healing? What about the gift of making bread? What about the gift of walking on water? Are those gifts? Well consider this: what gifts did Peter and John have? Do we see them coming up to a cripple and Peter saying, “You pray for him, John, you have the gift of cripples walking.” Did Paul have the gift of resurrection when he prayed for the boy who fell from the window and died?

What I began to see is that gifts are real and can be received at any time in our lives. They can be imparted during ministry times, received at birth, at new birth, at any baptism (water, spirit, fire, etc.), after seeking them privately in prayer, after God’s sovereign move, that they can be dormant for years and become active or ‘stirred up’ as we seek to walk in them, and we can go on to learn to walk in them responsibly and effectively as we apply faith and diligence.

But I also saw that there is a realm past gifts.

Jesus told me **that gifts are nevertheless important**, and I can see some very good reasons why—they are more than just intermediate measures to help us before we find the fullness of the Kingdom—**But what we are doing here in this teaching is releasing people into the communion of the spirit that is not based on gifts but on the desire for personal intimacy in ANY believer—possible due to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—and so leading them in the subsequent releasing of the full Kingdom as a result of that friendship and intimacy.**

Gifts release certain blessings and can operate in people often regardless of the real depth or sincerity of their walk with God. Gifts are piecemeal and often address the most pressing human needs: healing, prophecy, miracles to escape difficult circumstances. But when we enter into the Kingdom ALL of heaven’s resources are at our disposal, available to all of us, all the time, and God will answer ANY prayer we offer in faith: for healing, resurrection, miracles, whatever, regardless of what gifts we have or don’t have.

And the journey towards that kind of faith in God being not just Judge or Law Giver, but also Provider, Healer, Advisor,

Father, Brother, Warrior, etc., etc., etc., is the path of communion. **This is the path or the journey of coming to *know* God in his multifaceted splendor, but also as we behold his glory it transforms us, and we come to *know* who we are in Him as well.**

Communion is therefore also the discovery of our new lives in Christ which are becoming LIKE Christ, as we behold Him, as in a mirror (2 Corinthians 3:18). **So Communion is that path towards being able to exercise the full rights of sons of God on earth,** (Galatians 4:5) since it is the path towards becoming united with God in spirit and in truth, and transformed into his image (2 Corinthians 3:18).

We find when we lead a group of people into communion that one or two will often greatly excel by seeing very detailed or numerous visions. These are often the people with a gift of prophecy; they get the messages readily packaged to be shared to the community. In personal communion, however, we are not always getting prepared messages to give to others, we are spending time fellowshiping with God for our own edification, enlightenment, restoration, and maturity.

Often this interaction with the Spirit is so deep and spiritual that it cannot be easily shared—it sometimes can't even be reduced to human language. Deep, deeper than human languages have ever probed is the language of the spirit. And most often our time with the Lord is not for the purpose of prophesying, which is why the realm is so deep, but instead it is intended just to touch and strengthen us personally; **it is the realm of our personal encounters with the Lord that are special and may be eternally private.**

Don't be a hearer only

Also consider the fact that some people prophesy very much, but are less active in being DOERS of the word than just being speakers of it. Prophets who rely on their gift operating but who neglect the private, personal times alone with the Father in intimate fellowship often flounder in their walk. If they do not often get

beyond serving, beyond sharing words, beyond ministry, and just spend time in the private place where performance does not matter ... **such ministers lose the perspective of serving for Love, and even become selfish and prideful, relying on their gift more than on their own character and development of intimate son-ship.** This happens more than you'd probably believe.

Don't let this happen to you!

One of the most challenging things than can happen to a person in my opinion is operating in a strong gift of prophecy— healing too, but a gift of prophecy is more likely to be confused with a real relationship with God. I know the real issue is not the gift, but the heart of the person and whether they truly embrace humility and service or use God's glory for personal fame and identity. But it is a great reward for the community as much as it is a great danger or challenge to the servant!

Your heart is deceitful. Don't trust your own assessment of your spiritual condition. Don't trust your ability to analyze yourself correctly. Instead ask the Holy Spirit to do it for you. He knows what is really going on and He will show you. Paul said this very thing:

1 Corinthians 4:3-4

³"I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.

⁴"My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me."

Paul trusted God to keep him in check more than he trusted his own ability to tell when he was in danger. This is wisdom from above that we would do well to listen to.

Seek to be a son like Jesus was

But meanwhile we need to have a clear focus on our direction to help us keep our eyes on the target, to stay on the straight and narrow, as we grow and balance our service to Him with our

identity IN Him. And to understand what our focus should be, it is good to look at Jesus as an example.

Granted, Jesus may not look like the best example to most Christians. He seems so far above fault that we have a hard time comparing ourselves to Him, but if we look at Him as a man, and see that on earth his ability was not inherent in himself, so much as flowing out of his relationship to the Father, something he freely said about himself, and that his ability to do miraculous things was not so much something he did on his own as it was the product of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we can see that yes Jesus is a very good example to us.

What I mean is that Jesus was only ABLE to do what the Father and the Holy Spirit empowered him to do. Yet Jesus was undoubtedly great in every sense of the word.

But how is this a lesson to us?

Well, let's consider for a moment why Jesus was so great and was able to serve so awesomely in miracles, prophecy, healings, wisdom, leadership, and yet not lose his focus ... Yes, there may be several reasons, but at heart I think one stands out head and shoulders above the rest. Destiny, divine protection, angelic support, sure, these all played a role I know, but I think the reason Jesus was able to balance all the superhuman ways God used him and yet was still able to give it all up and die on the cross was because **his identity was firmly rooted as a SON of GOD, not as a miracle worker, prophet, teacher or leader.**

This suddenly makes incredible sense. If we are as He is in this world, if we are to carry on his mission, we need to be of the same mind-set as He was to achieve the same level of effectiveness. We have seen so many ministers go before us and either they stay mired in the safety of unbelief—or if they do step out into the realm of spiritual ministry, so many fall to pride and self reliance. These fail because they placed too much importance on their spiritual gifts and supernatural ministries. Their identities were misplaced and so their actions were not rooted in love, in serving God, but in showing how special they were, in performance, in ministering.

Well, we too will fail unless we follow Jesus' example and become CHILDREN OF GOD more than rooting our personal identities as prophets, healers, teachers, pastors or leaders.

Why I mention this now is two-fold. First, as we mature it is good to understand the path so we can walk it purposefully—even if we do it under the daily direction of the Holy Spirit, who guides and leads us anyway if we submit to Him, it's good to know the general direction.

But second, it's because the path to knowing God in person is the same path to knowing yourself as His son or daughter personally as well. It is no coincidence that when we SEE Him, we are transformed into His image.

There is a strange transformation that Apostle John wrote much about in 1 John regarding the effect of having close contact with God. He says you cannot 'see' God but you can 'know' God. And you can tell who 'knows' God because they will act in certain ways, such as loving their brothers in God's family. If a person does not love his brother, John says, it is not possible that they have 'known' God for God is love.

That is a strange reality. I can meet a movie star and not like their films, or be related to Einstein and not like physics, or be best friends with Bono and not like his latest album ... but meeting God is different because it WILL leave a certain telltale mark on your character. It will change you; it is impossible that it won't.

John said this change in character was enough to determine whether a person has met and so has known God or not.

1 John 4:8, *"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."*

And **1 John 4:20**,

"If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen."

This is a transformation that happens to you when you behold God in intimate union. Part of this is the creation or the impartation of the knowledge of your identity in God as His real child.

1 John 3:2, *“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”*

This verse probably refers to the rapture, or second coming, yes, but it is true of his appearing whenever we behold Him! Fellowshiping with Him in spirit causes this to happen, even right now!

And we already mentioned **2 Corinthians 3:18**, but I'll say it again because it is the same point.

2 Corinthians 3:18, *“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.”* (ASV)

Only such personal spirit-to-Spirit contact will achieve these results. Only worship in spirit, in truth will do this.

There are stages of 'communion' obviously, from unknowing contact with the Holy Spirit who led you to become saved, to passive osmosis as you sat in the church pew, to early learning during your youth (maybe during your Confirmation, or baptism classes or whatever your tradition was), to chance encounters with the Holy Spirit, etc., but the more we grow the more we need and desire more open and unveiled contact.

It is the same with human courtship.

At first you are totally satisfied, elated even, that the girl or boy you fancy knows your name! Or it's enough that they pass you a note, or smile at you in the hall, or send you a text message or call you, or let you hold their hand, even their finger, as you walk together, or they openly identify themselves as your boy- or girlfriend ... but soon enough even this is not enough for you and you want to touch, caress, kiss and then commit to marriage. Soon even that is not enough as we get to know each other deeply,

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intimately, we want full union with them. God uses this analogy in the Bible to describe our relationship with Him for a reason—because it's the same thing, the same model. We do not have sexual fantasies with God because the Holy Spirit is holy and beyond the human realm of flesh mating or biological procreating, but the experience of union with God is the spiritual reality that human intercourse is the carnal mirror of. That's why the Bible has the Song of Solomon, and Psalm 45, and why Jesus calls us his bride!

If people talk of sexual fantasies in prayer, which is not common, but you may hear of it—well that is all wrong. They are only having a carnal, soulish fantasy, not spiritual communion with the real Holy Spirit. But it can be confusing to people who can't discern in the spirit, although the difference is obvious to anyone who wants to know. Talking about it may leave room for doubt—I mean even the real spiritual encounter with the Holy Spirit is often called ... you guessed it, ecstasy, because in his presence is FULLNESS of Joy. But it simply isn't in the realm of sexual stimulation. It is holy and pure in essence.

So what I want you to know is that fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit will change you, eternally. Fellowshiping with Him will cause you to 'know' Him, which will rub off on you, and will cause you to 'know' who you are in Him, and this will change how you behave in certain telltale ways.

The Lord was telling me this very thing, that we must be doers of the word to be blessed and find his promises fulfilled to us. **Doers of what part of the word exactly I wondered? Doers of intimacy with Him He said.** That is the path to Him.

If you do this, if you 'do' intimacy through spiritual communion, you will find Him. He is our reward.

He told it this way to a friend, Lily, in one of our ministry groups that in finding Him everything else in our lives will take its proper place.

So that is what we will experience, Divine Order, purpose, destiny ...

Chapter 4

El Roi, the God of Vision

Before I go on I do want to thank Mark Virkler again for teaching this foundation to us since it helped us learn to be able to teach and coach people to hear God’s voice—it is not a gift or gift-based, it is really for anyone!

That was the exact kind of inclusive open door that I needed many years ago but was missing in the people we knew who had begun to discover how to fellowship with the Holy Spirit, but couldn’t teach it. Thanks to this teaching we were given the freedom to believe what God had told us all those years ago, that even though **God does speak to everyone in their own way, everyone can hear His voice in their hearts if they would just quiet themselves down and listen.**

We began by incorporating ‘journaling’ into our daily devotions and teaching, but this soon blossomed far beyond merely having written or even spoken fellowship with the Lord and led us to explore and develop our understanding into what we now call Communion, full spiritual fellowship with the Father.

For starters, and taking my pre-teen daughter and some of her friends as an example, they have taken to having spiritual fellowship with the Lord like fish to water, and quickly moved far beyond merely receiving words or visions, instructions or images—**they go in the spirit and actually visit heaven!**

Yes, they do all still get words and visions that they can share and so they ‘journal’ and prophesy, and these words are often given in the style or tone of voice you’d expect if someone was talking to a child, as if they were lessons to a child—but sometimes

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they are prophecies spoken with a tone of godly authority, spiritual power and holy fear that sounds more like how John the Baptist must have sounded! She was 10 or 11 at the time this started, and that ‘voice’ is not hers; it’s the Spirit of Almighty God!

And when we pray I’ll get one or two words or visions—she’ll get 10 or 12, and it’s all kinds of things: parables, words, correction for sins, revelation of His love, simple pictures, fully detailed movies, visions and archetypal prophecies.

But we have gone way past what we can call journaling or prophesying when we are talking about visiting heaven.

And one thing I noticed is that most of us adults tend to want to talk to the Lord for understanding and information, wisdom and power, but the kids often just go to enjoy God’s love and play in heaven.

For adults it takes some time and focus to enter in. For them since they’re still children, it’s a matter of one or two seconds of desire, and they’re there!

We adults tend to feel like uninvited guests in God’s presence at first and are timid and shy to want to look around. But they go in a group and all may see each other there together—what in the old revivals used to be called having a kindred experience. They freely play with the angels, saints and Jesus, who normally arrives in their heavenly visions with solemn pomp and kingly awe. They’ll be laughing with the angels or playing with a saint and then suddenly say somberly, “It’s Him ... He’s coming.”

“Who is coming?” I’ll ask.

“Jesus. He’s here. He’s LIGHT. And He’s got angels and saints all around Him. He’s coming over to talk to me....” And then they fade into a silent awe until they can regain their senses enough to tell me what is going on.

You don’t need to teach them that Heaven is their real home. It is true for all believers, but children have an easier time believing it.

And just consider this: we have access to God’s Throne, the most special and ‘exclusive’ spiritual place in the universe. If we can go to the very Throne FREELY, how much more can we go to the other regions and look around?

For me, it is not as easy (although the Holy Spirit is telling me right now as I write this that that's not entirely true) but I seem to have to really focus and press in to visit heaven in spirit, but I have to say that it is a simply wonderful way to interact with the Holy Spirit. We learn faster in heaven, we can explore the Throne, paradise, our homes, and so many things you can't even describe!

And since it is the place of Eternal Life, the victories over the ongoing conflicts of the earth realm are easier to receive and so enjoy. So it is a good place to go to start to pray over earthly things.

We've actually learned this, to wage warfare from the seat of heavenly victory rather than from the battlefield. We used to have to struggle head to head against demonic powers, now we either run to Daddy and ask Him to fight on our behalf, or we go to the heavenly realm far above all power and authority, sitting on our seats of authority where the war is over and instead of hacking away at the demonic darkness with swords, we can wield scepters and keys, issue proclamations and make decrees.

This IS the sword of the Spirit, but we now do it from a place of victory above the battle where we have already won, whereas before we had to do it from the trenches and from the place of actual conflict. Wow! Warring from heaven is so easy compared to slugging it out from a place of uncertainty, fear and ignorance.

But let me take a minute or two and explain this a bit more...

Ministering from a vision

We have learned when we start a meeting to first sit and soak in His presence and to watch if the Lord gives anyone a clear vision or word. Often in general worship and soaking we each get some clue to what the Holy Spirit is doing, others will confirm it, but some others still will not get anything, especially if He is healing them or strengthening their hearts, such as if they are new to deep spiritual things, going through painful trials, or even if they are being prepared for trials in the near future.

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We still ask everyone to share, and if there is a clear vision that has to do with a way the Lord wants to interact with us—maybe someone was given a key, or saw a gift box, or was given a sword, or saw the Lord say something like, “You need more rest in Me,” or “I am your hope,” or “Purify yourself”—then we encourage everyone to seek Him along the lines of that vision to receive what He is releasing in the meeting.

Some may say that since the vision was not given to everyone, then it is only for that one person, or that only that person who received it can benefit by it, but that’s not true for a few reasons.

First we are One Body, and often what He is telling or giving one person is meant for the whole group.

Romans 12:5, *“so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”*

Second, this is the way a meeting of the saints is supposed to operate according to Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 14:26

“What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.”

Such things are given to strengthen all of the congregation. Also we have learned that we should use God’s vision to us to direct our fight of faith, our growth, our perseverance in the Lord’s service, and our ministry:

1 Timothy 1:18-19

¹⁸“This charge I commit to you, my son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before about you, in order that you might war a good warfare by them, ¹⁹holding faith and a good conscience, which some have put away and made shipwreck as to faith. (MKJV)

So for one example of how we've learned to interact with the Lord through his prophetic direction is from this vision I had of my heavenly throne.

This is a very powerful revelation that we are still exploring the depths of, which I encourage you to explore yourself.

Praying from your heavenly throne

One time in prayer I saw a vision of a human sized throne on the side of the Lord's mountain and an angel was standing next to it, who said, "This is your throne; don't worry, it moves." I pondered that for a week and then realized it was something I wanted to interact with, to explore the meaning of to understand more. The verse from Ephesians suddenly took on personal meaning:

***Ephesians 2:6**, "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,"*

If I have a throne, one that is for me personally, doesn't that mean I can sit on it? ... but why does it move? And what is this throne for?

So back in prayer a week or so later I was bold to ask if I could sit on my throne and let my heart do just that. In my spiritual vision I zoomed right towards my throne and as I sat down on it several things happened at once.

First, I realized it was my seat of authority in the Kingdom, delegated by the Lord to me—He is King of kings and so many of us are the little kings within His realm—we are small 'k' kings, not big 'K' Kings—but we are kings nonetheless. I also understood that it moves up the mountain of the Lord as I grow in spiritual authority.

But the greatest discovery was what happened when I sat on my throne and saw what it overlooked.

At first when I saw this throne I was looking at it head on; I was looking at it with the Lord's mountain as a backdrop. But when I sat on it, my perspective turned around and I saw what my throne

overlooks and I was shocked. It overlooks my inheritance, my life, a valley of the lands of my lot. Psalm 16 says the border of my lot falls in pleasant places, and that is what I saw. My entire life laid out below me as a beautiful valley.

Sitting there on my heavenly throne I have now learned to ask the Lord what am I to do, how do I interact over my life, my inheritance, and I open my hands and ask Him to please give me something, a tool or some other kind of object or some special instruction to help me; then when He gives me something I ask Him what is it for, and how do I use it.

Do this yourself and see what He does!

First try to locate your throne; sit on it. It will appear as being made of any number of heavenly materials: gold, crystal, ruby ... Then really look to see your inheritance clearly because that will tell you many things about your calling, identity, the season you are in and the things you are dealing with.

You may see many people who you know or who you will minister to; you may see buildings or symbols of industry; you may see rats and wasps that need to be evicted; you may see a thief or a demon; you may see beautiful fields of yellow flowers or a river of living water ... everyone is shown their own picture according to the Lord's desire, but also according to your own specific inheritance, faith, and what kinds of issues you are dealing with at that time. This picture often changes according to what the Lord wants to teach you on a day-to-day basis.

When the Sword is a Key or a Scroll

Then open your hand and ask Him for help and see what He gives you to help you interact with your inheritance. You may see a sword, but usually He will give you a scepter instead. A sword is used in the heat of battle but more powerful than that is the scepter, which is the authority of the ruler who has already won the conflict.

A sword has to be used to combat an undefeated foe, but the scepter is used to deal with a criminal who is operating within your established domain since they are already under your

established authority. You'd use it to proclaim that the rats must die, or leave, the thief must be caught and pay back seven fold, etc. Or if you see a dead, parched land, it is a cursed land, that means there is a curse on your inheritance—but don't panic, you can simply reverse the curse into a blessing, and you'll watch as your faith unlocks God's restoration of your life, then and there—you'll see it taking place, convincing you it is real and helping your faith be strong during the process of transition.

You may be given a scroll to issue a decree. You may be given a key or a set of keys. This is very common. Ask Him what key is it, and how to use it. It is often things like 'trust' or 'faith' or 'compassion'—and when you exercise these things, it unlocks God's living presence into your life. Keys open and shut, so you can lock out the devouring of the enemy, and release the restoration of the Lord.

Just ask the Lord about each object He gives you: what does it mean, and how do you use it ... then when you understand, USE IT!! Use it diligently!!

The word of God is the sword, but His Word is also a hammer, and a fire:

Jeremiah 23:29, *“Is not my word like fire,’ declares the LORD, ‘and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?’”*

His Word is the power of God, be it fire, wind, water ... it is His Spirit—so when He shows you a scroll or a key, it is not less powerful than a sword—it IS the sword, and has the same power as the archetypal 'sword of the spirit,' but it just manifests itself in a different, even specific functional capacity. The whole Bible is the sword of the spirit, right? Even passages like, “God is love,” and, “You brood of vipers, the axe is already at the root!” and “Jesus wept.” The Word is a sword, but it still manifests in many different specific functional capacities. So don't get hung up on the symbol God shows you as He expands your understanding of how His Word empowers you to rule and reign over your delegated authority with His power. If God gives it to you, take it, and learn how to wield it.

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What is also very interesting is to look at what is covering your inheritance and I bet you'll see a shimmering dome, like an invisible shield. This is the covering of the Father over your life—it is his faithfulness. One lady saw this and the rats were being kept out of her inheritance by it. Another saw it as regulating the environment, keeping the scorching sun out, and the heavy damaging rain off, but at the same time providing nurturing sunshine and enough gentle rain in to cause everything in her land to grow well and prosper.

You may see angels and saints helping you. You may see great trees, flowing streams, mountains or green pastures. You may be given a fish net, or a book, or a library, or a musical instrument, or machinery, a new invention or understanding of any realm of human or spiritual life, or you may be given a bar of chocolate, or a cup of coffee, or literally any number of things: archetypal, biblical or even mundane things from your normal life, whatever God wants to use to convey the right idea to you.

Ask Him about everything you see or are given, "Lord, what does this mean?" Then ask Him what to do with it, or how to use it. Often we see that in such cases, if we don't ask, seek and knock to enquire about these things, He won't tell us more. So diligently explore what He shows you.

When we lead people into this experience in the Holy Spirit, which you can too, it helps them build up their faith in this area of the Kingdom, which is especially helpful if people are wrestling with their calling, with a devouring in their lives, having personal hardships where a curse or loss is continually taking place, or if they just feel unsure about the direction or stability of their lives in the Lord and need to exercise more godly control over their lives.

We pray with them as we ask them to sit on their heavenly throne, look at the valley of their inheritance, ask the Lord for His tools to release His order in their lives, and to help them interact with their inheritance according to what He shows them.

The more we explore this revelation in spirit the more we are learning about the nature and exercise of our spiritual authority in His Kingdom as it flows from His Main Throne down to our lesser

thrones, as well as the use of the weapons of warfare from the Third Heaven (praise, trust, etc.) and other deep mysteries.

In essence this is just prayer, but it is meditative, prophetic, interactive with the Holy Spirit, guided by the Lord, and maybe best of all, when we start prayer from this position, from sitting on our heavenly thrones, we START from a place of victory and the process is easy and rewarding, refreshing and very effective.

The God who made Vision

So what we've learned from this is how important it is to wage our 'good fight of faith' according to the prophecies we receive, even the visions we get in a ministry time.

And what this does is unleash people's faith in a higher realm since they can understand what they see in a visual format much deeper than if they only learned or prayed verbally or only responded from memory of the written psalms or proverbs. In a visionary experience the Lord can teach you a hundred times faster and your prayers are a hundred times more confident, that means you pray in a hundred times more faith than when you only repeat textual phrases that you are still struggling to understand or believe.

If you read the passage, 'The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want,' but face many bills and un-met needs, it is hard to pray in faith. But if you go to the Lord with this need and see Him as a shepherd over a little, precious sheep who is well fed, loved, protected and very happy and ask Him, 'What am I seeing Lord?' And He says, 'I am your shepherd. I am taking care of your needs. Trust Me,' it infuses your heart with authentic faith and reassurance to believe His word is true for you, even over your carnal circumstances that don't yet line up with His promises.

Also notice that many, even most of the promises in Scripture are visionary in nature—have you realized that? I mean almost every promise is conveyed in a pictorial format, a word picture, something that you can imagine in your heart, and this is probably

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the only time when your imagination or internal thought life is not 'vain.'

What we call 'imagination' in English is an unclear thing. We will be judged by our 'evil imagination,' so it is an important area of our thought life, but when we dream, we are often not simply imagining things, especially when we are receiving a message from God. Not all dreams are from the Lord by far, but when they are, they seem to use the same internal faculties that a normal dream does. The same with visions and communion. We can help the Lord start talking with us by focusing our own hearts on the Lord and by making a picture of Him in what we may call our 'imagination,' **but when we do this and the eyes of our hearts are fixed on the Lord He somehow harnesses our 'imagnations' or internal thought faculties to the Holy Spirit's living interaction.** Can you clearly look inside your heart or thought life and see what is a thought coming from your imagination, or your spirit, or your soul, or your brain, or your heart? These things are all invisible and impossible to normally distinguish.

I know doctrinally that the Lord speaks to us through our spirits but I cannot normally distinguish my spirit from my soul internally without the aid of the Holy Spirit helping me *discern in spirit* what is godly and what is soulish or carnal.

So what I find is that when the Holy Spirit is flowing, and I earnestly want to talk with Him, and quiet down my soul, and fix my focus on Him, we connect. I don't know why my soul gets left behind when the Lord talks with me in spirit, but it is almost always the case, especially if I am very focused on Him.

Some people do mix their soul into their spiritual discernment, and that causes a mixed revelation, which is to be avoided! It helps to seek greater purification, sanctification, holiness, spiritual purity and devotion to the Lord. But especially as we learn and start to teach people to do this for the first time, we need to test everything, as Paul said, and by the Holy Spirit, the Living Word, you will be able to distinguish what comes from soul and what comes from the spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

¹⁹“Do not put out the Spirit’s fire.

²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt

²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good,

²²reject whatever is harmful.” (TNIV)

Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (TNIV)

Talking with Angels and Saints

Some people are OK with the idea of talking in spirit with Jesus, but get unnerved when we start dealing with talking with angels and especially saints, but it’s completely normal and Scriptural, and the more time you spend hanging around with the Holy Spirit, the more these kinds of things are bound to happen.

You don’t need to tell people about this because many will not understand and will scoff and mock, but I think you’d better be prepared, especially if you are going to lead ministry meetings, because these things happen, and they are getting more common.

Jesus told me that the human race is now ready to live past the confines of the mere physical world—that means we are ready as a Race to step into living in the spiritual as well as the physical world—but Jesus then said to me, **that is why we must be on guard against the counterfeits.**

As mankind steps into encountering the spiritual world, **there are going to be more counterfeit attempts to trip us up.** It is the same when men and women go through puberty and become sexually mature, the attacks against them increase.

We cannot stop God or Satan, angels or demons, from talking with people. Such encounters are inevitable and their frequency is on the rise. Spiritual encounters are already becoming very ordinary in many ‘rational’ communities. **We cannot hide our head in the sand, but we can lead people into the authentic experiences of the Holy Spirit to both meet their needs and satisfy their curiosity of spiritual things.** We cannot stop mankind

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from growing up, but we can help to equip them to function in the spiritual realm safely and within the legal protection of the Lord.

And so just as Prophecy is the legitimate version of the counterfeit of divination or fortune telling, and Communion is the legitimate version of much Eastern Meditation, visiting heavenly beings in the Holy Spirit, even if they are angels or saints, is the legitimate version of the counterfeit of necromancy or spirit channeling.

But honestly, if you are not ready for this discussion, it is not necessary at this time, so you can just forget about it and skip a few pages ahead.

But I also know some readers will already have had experiences in the supernatural realms—good and bad—and that such things are going to become more and more common, both real and counterfeit, and it is better to be prepared than ill equipped.

So if you want to skip ahead, shoot right over to the next section on **Ministry through Communion: being someone's 'Communion Co-pilot,'** where the main discussion continues, but if you have already had some strange encounters and want to know a little more, then stay with me for the next few pages and we'll look briefly at this.

Distinguishing Real from Fake

There is a clear biblical ban on getting mixed up in any kind of witchcraft. On the other hand there is a very clear biblical mandate to interact with the Lord in spirit, and the biblical record has so many clearly recorded events and spiritual experiences that are far beyond what most religious leaders are comfortable admitting, let alone encouraging people to experience, that many believers feel stuck.

On one hand, they know there is more to life than this—that God is near and they want His personal friendship and touch—but on the other hand they've been taught all spiritual encounters are wrong and evil and counterfeit! But you have to ask, if there are so many spiritual experiences that God endorses, directly and indirectly in the Bible, right through the end of the New Testament,

why would God do that if they were all fake? Even Jesus had many spiritual encounters. Certainly He was not faking them or deceived! And then you have to ask this: if these are all counterfeit, then what are they counterfeit of? What are the legitimate experiences that these counterfeits are copying?

And everyone knows the **existence of the counterfeit is sure proof of the existence of the real thing**. This is not my analogy only. Even the Apostle John talks of this, using the same language!

1 John 2:27, "As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him."

Isn't that an eye-opener!?

We can avoid the deeper issues but only for a time. Meanwhile neither God nor satan is holding back. The Kingdom of Light and the Kingdom of Darkness are both advancing. So sooner or later WE WILL HAVE TO face facts.

We will soon not have the luxury as believers to pretend the spiritual world does not exist. Even in the West the spiritual counterfeits are increasing in popularity and open acceptance, and the only remedy to reach and heal these people will be for YOU to lay hold of the real inheritance you have in Christ and walk as He did, in the fullness of the heavenly kingdom on earth.

So this area must at some point be dealt with by all believers, even if it feels like grabbing a bull by the horns.

But just as we do not avoid speaking or teaching truth for fear of speaking lies, or not eating food for fear of poison, but study diligently and eat wisely, we should not avoid or shun spiritual encounters in the Holy Spirit for fear of having a demonic or counterfeit experience. **Instead, just as with truth, we should be diligent to explore, learn and become skilled at telling the difference between the Lord's truth and the enemy's lies, the Lord's real encounters and the enemy's counterfeits.**

But to help distinguish these two areas of the real and the fake, I would like to offer a few points to ponder, especially regarding ‘talking with the dead,’ which is the biggest criticism most people raise and is the most controversial area by far. Let’s tackle it head on.

Spiritual Fellowship with the Saints?

First, talking with a saint in spirit who has gone on to be with the Lord is not by definition talking with the dead, since no one in Christ is actually dead!

Matthew 22:31-32

³¹“But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, ³²I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

This verse is saying it is not that God WAS the God of these men but that God STILL IS the God of these men *in the present tense*. They are all still alive to Him, in Him and are still within the fellowship of the saints, to which we belong!

Second, the Holy Spirit is the power through which we encounter these things if we have our hearts fixed on Jesus, pray in Jesus’ name, and are in communion with Him—and frankly God can do ANYTHING—and often does! So whatever the Holy Spirit causes or allows you to enjoy is OK with God by definition, even if it is too much for other people to handle.

Conversely, the power through which all counterfeit spiritual experiences happen is a demonic power, whether those activities are channeling, TM or astral projection, yoga, or fortune telling in any of a number of ways. Whether they seem good or bad, are solving people’s surface problems, or cursing someone, making them feel healthier or wiser, the power at work is satanic, so even when it seems ‘good’ it is unfortunately irrevocably evil.

So sure, you can ask a demon for secret wisdom and he could surely tell you things no one else could know. They could be real and true, and even help you in many ways ... but he’s a predator, a

lot smarter than you, is playing a long-term game, and won't give you anything for free. Typically demons, however they disguise themselves or whomever they use to speak through, would only tell you things that you can verify as true to gain your confidence, or ensnare you in some kind of trap, and once you put your trust in their advice, they will start to tell you things you can't easily verify and have to go out on a limb and trust him on ... and then the real deception begins. They are con artists, loan sharks, crafty deceivers. And while they may even tell you a few things here and there that might actually help you or be true in part or in isolation, they are very cunning liars, and will never show you the whole truth willingly, not for your real benefit, not without a hook.

I know of a lady who was into TM for ten years and flew all over the world in her spirit form attached by a long silver cord to her stationary body, always accompanied by her spiritual guide. She was a witch and even killed people in her spiritual form who interfered with her witchcraft. The odd thing was that in ten years of routine travel in the spiritual realm, the astral plane as she was told to call it, and having hundreds of otherworldly experiences she NEVER saw an angel, not even once, since her spiritual vision was always filtered by her spirit guide who was a demon in disguise. Not until the Lord sovereignly interfered with her spiritual vision one time did she see angels, and seeing how superior in power they were, the deception of her spirit guide began to crumble.

How different God behaves when giving revelation! God will show you whatever you want or need to see or understand. Often just for your enjoyment and for the sake of adding some beauty into your life. And when God does such things, they are true, usually profoundly so, and He adds no hidden burdens or snares to that enlightenment, usually quite the opposite, for He delights in your education, your freedom and joy for the very sake of it!

So whatever the Lord wants to teach you, show you, or allow you to meet or experience, in God's power it is perfectly fine and legal, and there are no negative consequences, apart from the normal ups and downs we encounter when learning anything new, and sure, maybe also the general burden of knowing the truth. Leave it to Solomon to express this:

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Ecclesiastes 1:18, *“For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.”*

But even with the burden of responsibility of maturity, Christ helps us and carries even this burden.

But the point we are making is that seeking the knowledge, power, or insight of future outcomes or any kind of spiritual interactions or wisdom is OK—but to do so through any other means than through the Holy Spirit is by definition spiritually illegal and will carry severe repercussions.

So the seeking of spiritual knowledge or power is not the problem, it is really a question of HOW we seek it, HOW we get it, and WHO or WHAT is at work enabling us to find or use it.

God has shown us so many outrageous things his people were allowed to experience in Scripture, and we’re discovering that what He still allows is far more reaching than the religious naysayers will ever accept or believe is possible, but God does more than you could imagine or predict God would ever do.

It may be best to just get used to it.

The third point I want to raise is that Scripturally we are allowed to enjoy the communion of the saints which indeed spans the earth / heaven divide; this is a plain reading of Hebrews 12:18-24, also explaining the difference between approaching God in the fear of the flesh (Deuteronomy 5) and in the peace of the spirit through Christ,

Hebrews 12:18-24

¹⁸*“You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰because they could not bear what was commanded: ‘If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.’ ²¹The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, ‘I am trembling with fear.’*

²²“**But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.** *You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,* ²³*to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,* ²⁴*to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”*

We have come to God, to Jesus . . . but also to the spirits of righteous MEN.

In the Bible, we do not see many times where saints across the divide from Earth to Heaven can talk, but we do see it. We saw this in Scripture when Jesus spoke to both Moses and Elijah. Was Jesus a necromancer for doing so? Obviously not.

Jesus even tells of a story—He did not say it was a parable—a story of a rich man in Hell who looked up and God allowed him to see into the heavenly realm where the saints were living in God’s comfort and provision and he could actually talk with Abraham. (Luke 16:19-31) If a man in Hell can see and talk with Abraham in Heaven, and Abraham could freely talk back with him (meaning it was not sinful for him to do so), then how much more could we, the redeemed of the Lord, the children of Abraham and children of God through Jesus, fellowship with the great cloud of witnesses who are our very brothers and sisters, when the Lord allows it in the Holy Spirit?

I want to mention the famous story of King Saul consulting a witch, a spiritual outlaw basically, to call up the spirit of Samuel, which shows the counterfeit being interrupted by God’s hand, which was why the witch was so shocked when God caused the *real* Samuel to appear. (1 Samuel 28:7-25) She must have been used to channeling demons, but when God interrupted her witchcraft and this miracle happened she totally freaked out—it was the first time she ever encountered such a thing. Saul was in rebellion to God and God had decided to inflict a famine of the prophetic word

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on Saul to cause him to repent. Saul rebelled about this as well, and consulted the witch.

What a legitimate experience is likely to look like in your prayer life could be like this: You go to talk with the Lord in spirit and you see Him talking with Paul or Elijah, or your grandfather, and the three of you have a nice conversation. Or you may visit heaven, and when you do you will see hundreds of people: saints and angels alike, they even look different, and you will be allowed to talk with some of them. Or you may be allowed to talk with your angelic helper, or even the angel of a friend. You can tell if it is your friend's angel, do you know how? Well often an angel takes on the visual resemblance of the person they serve, so your angel looks like you, and your friends' angels look like them. Isn't that funny?

Yes, this also explains why when Peter was locked up in jail and an angel released him and he went to the home of the other disciples and knocked on the door and Rhoda told everyone Peter was released they didn't believe her, and said it must just be his angel!

Acts 12:13-16

¹³Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. ¹⁴When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

*¹⁵"You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "**It must be his angel.**"*

¹⁶But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.

They were astonished that it was Peter, but seemed to be unsurprised that it would be his angel. To me that's funny! Would you be *less* surprised to see someone's angel than them in person!?

I know for me, I was in prayer one time and saw my heavenly home and my sight was more clear than normal human eyesight. It was more real than my normal perception. I saw a most beautiful mountain forest and on one of the mountain ridges was a large white building that looked like it was made of marble. It had

several pillars for walls and a dome on top in a kind of classical design. Wow!

A second time I wanted to go to my home again and see what was there and I saw inside but in a kind of obscure dreamy vision. What I saw was a meeting of several saints who were sent to help me and teach me. I had no memorable conversation with them and in fact I was shocked to see such saints of renown in my home, paying attention to me! Who I recognized in front, closest to me was probably Isaiah, or maybe either Elijah or Elisha. I 'saw' their identity in spirit but I was not strong enough for it to be very clear to me or hear what was going on. The Lord was there as well, as were some other people I did not recognize.

Other people have been able to speak with Peter, Abraham, King David, famous saints, or family members.

I do not know the Lord's rules in regard to communication among and between saints across the eternal divide of carnal death; many people speculate, but many people are surely wrong. I know what I saw, and I know of many other cases where people across the great divide have been allowed to communicate. It is in the Bible, and while it's a minor issue, YOU NEVER KNOW WHO God is going to allow to talk with a heavenly saint, maybe someone in your home group, maybe even you.

Test every encounter. Demand proof of any being's identity and loyalty. Demons are tricky, but saints and angels will not hide their loyalty to Jesus.

Unmasking a fake

I also know of a friend who heard about talking with the Lord many years ago and it revived his mother's old practice of automatic writing. They thought it was one and the same. They would blank their minds, pen in hand, letting it scribble on the page in loops until a force took it over and wrote very legibly, from an external mind, which claimed to be one of their 'angels.'

I was dubious at the time since it was not direct communication in heart, that it was begun by his mother long before any of them were saved—there are some folk magic practitioners in New

England, as there are everywhere in the world—and if you wanted to ask a question you had to write it out first on paper—you couldn't just think it in your heart—and all in all it just didn't seem open and transparent. It was not like what these other ministers were doing or like our experiences in prophecy or hearing God speak to us when we were in prayer.

So we asked him if he tested the spirits to see if they were from God and he said yes, they asked the angels if they were from God and the angels said yes they were.

We said that won't work, since the Bible says in 1 John that the one reliable test is to ask *if they acknowledge Jesus is Lord and if He came in the flesh*, not only if they say they are from 'God/god.'

1 John 4:1-3

¹"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

²"This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

³"but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world."

The man said he did that as well and the angels answered correctly. We asked him to show us the written response.

He showed us their journal where they wrote their question, asking, "Is Jesus your Lord and did He come in the flesh?" **and the reply the angels wrote was this, "We have information about that here."**

"See," the man said, "they are from God."

I wasn't yet an attorney back then, but I still could tell a non-responsive reply to a direct question when I saw one!

"Wait a minute!" we said! "That is not the right answer! That's not saying 'Yes, Jesus is Lord!' They didn't even answer the question!"

It took him a few more minutes to be convinced that it was angelic communication alright—but with the fallen angels!! It was counterfeit! Then he threw away all his papers. But what a lesson!

What we now know is in fact God knows your heart, your needs, and everything about everything. **You don't need to write your questions down for Him to answer you, not even when you are talking with a holy angel.** (You have to do that in automatic writing since the demons have to read your writing to know what you want to know; they aren't plugged into God's omniscience anymore.)

And an angel of God will usually be told what to tell you from the Omniscient Holy Spirit, probably before you start to talk with it.

Also, if you ask an angel if it is from God, they will tell you loudly, proudly and repetitively that Jesus is their Lord, He came to the earth in the flesh, that He is the only true God, that He is coming again, that He is the Creator, the Father, the Son ... you may have a hard time making him stop proclaiming God's praises!

If that still doesn't satisfy you, **REBUKE HIM IN JESUS' NAME** and tell him to leave if he is an agent of Satan in Jesus' name. Jesus' name clears the spiritual realm of demonic beings like dynamite! And don't worry. Angels will appreciate your candor and caution. It won't offend them in the least if they are really from God.

Before we cover one last area of angelic beings, I want to refocus our attention on what is important.

Talking with saints and angels is all fine and good, but it is not important.

Jesus is Omnipresent; He ALWAYS has enough time to give you his undivided attention. The Holy Spirit is GOD HIMSELF and He is already IN you. This was shown to me one time at a prophetic training event. I started hearing angels singing in the room—others did too and I was about to get really excited when **the Lord spoke to me that it's only angels and I was able to talk with GOD HIMSELF in the Holy Spirit**, which is more important than talking with angels. That really tempered my excitement. Angels are cool, they are there, they can talk with us, minister to us, help us—all great! But what we have is far superior to just being able to talk with angels. We can talk with God!

Questions of 'Angelic' Gender, etc.

So finally I want to address an unimportant area that won't make a bit of difference, but it is at least convenient to talk about it now that we are on the subject of angels.

The first problem is that if we just scratch the surface of this issue we see a dizzying depth of hidden knowledge that God has decided we are not to major on while still in this earthly realm. Sure, I am curious about a few things, but they are unimportant compared to *knowing GOD*. So this is a second problem: where should I invest my time? In searching out novel spiritual curiosities or in finding eternal life?

I'd like to talk about one or two things, but I know I risk leading this discussion down a slippery slope and I hesitate to even talk about some of these things. But I think I should since I find so much misinformation and I like to think I can help clarify issues.

For example, I recall a recent heated controversy about a famous minister who said he spoke to a female angel and some people got so upset because they said the Scriptures show no female angels so it must have been a satanic counterfeit, and so that minister must be a fake as well. Aside from several sins I could point out in the accusing crowd, the fact of the matter that these angry believers seemingly overlooked is that **angels have NO material body**—they are FIRES, they are WINDS, they are SPIRITS and so they can probably appear in the material realm by taking on **any form they want to**: male, female, or vegetable (in Acts 7:30 it says God spoke through an angel at the burning bush to Moses, so was that an angel manifesting as a plant? I don't see why not! It's certainly possible.)

And what about Gabriel and Michael? Are they 'male'? Would God give some angels male anatomy and not make others with female anatomy? They seem to kind of go together. Maybe God would. Maybe not! You have to ask Him! And until you know, it's best to keep your opinions to yourself!

Or considering marriage, Jesus said angels don't marry and we will be like them in heaven. That suggests that since we will be like

them, that they may have gender, male and female, but just don't reproduce.

The Bible also records angelic beings coming to earth and in events eerily similar to reports of modern alien abductions, reproducing with women on earth to create hybrid peoples with superhuman abilities but who were incorrigibly evil. Does that prove there are no female angels? No, it just proves that those renegade males could not find anyone to reproduce with in heaven, whether there were 'females' there or not. That does not even prove angels are 'male' since the scriptures suggest the angels who mated with women had to leave their 'former habitations' a term that suggests their bodily form more than a home to dwell in. Quite a difficult topic to get any clear answers on, isn't it?

People also often think there are only three categories of sentient beings: men, angels and God, but that is also not true. There are maybe hundreds of kinds of spiritual beings God has created and many are not so easily classified as men or angels.

Not only that, the word we read as 'angel' has several different original words in Hebrew, maybe seven or so: cherubs, seraphs, etc. Anyway what does 'angel' mean? The word means messenger, *mal'akh*, someone with a message—the same root word as the name of the prophet who wrote the book of Malachi. The same term is clearly used to refer to a human, a demon and a holy angel in the English Bible.

So anyone who gives a message is an 'angel' based on performing a task, and there are any number of heavenly beings that interact with men on earth or are seen in heaven who are referred to as 'angels' in the Scriptures, so it is less a racial designation and more of a functional job description.

Finally, I suppose I should say that the Bible, in Zechariah 5:9, describes a vision of two women with 'the wind in their wings' who carried a prophetic basket of wickedness off to a distant land, which one might clearly argue describes female angels. But why I said this last and in passing is that the 'facts' of the matter are meaningless in the attitude of controversy. Proving the existence of female angels one way or the other is not as important as disentangling ourselves from an argumentative attitude, trusting

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in opinions and personal theories, for even if we can solve one riddle here or there to our satisfaction, there will always be more that we cannot solve. The real problem is not becoming perfect in knowledge, but in NOT leaning upon our own understanding!

So we need to judge and test an angelic encounter, but it is useless to do it by opinions or appearances! **The only tools we really have to actually test a spirit are the name of Jesus and spiritual discerning in the Holy Spirit.**

And I am sure there is more that can probably be said about angels, angelic gender and angelic origins that is beyond being important, and will only cause some people to argue.

All we seem to know and agree on is that there are heavenly angels, they are spirits, and that they are sent to minister to us, to teach us, to protect us, to strengthen us, send messages to us, and send messages back to God from us.

But why do it this way? Through the Holy Spirit we can talk to God directly. Isn't that much more straightforward? But nevertheless God still uses angels to do much of his unseen work on earth. God even uses people like you and I! God doesn't need either men or angels to do his work, but He chooses to use us both, so if that is the way things are, it is good for us to accept it, even if we don't really understand it.

Test revelations ... by Spirit

To try and discount spiritual revelation or prophetic insight people often say you need 'confirmation' of a revelation, so it's not true if God only told you once. Sure you need confirmation, but what does that mean to most people? The same message repeated twice? Can Satan do that? Can Satan say the same thing twice? Sure he can. That is not the kind of confirmation you need to test a word.

Or people say you need to find it in the Scriptures. **Well, sure, but if that was only how Jesus tested he would have failed his trial in the wilderness since Satan used Scripture to try and trick Him.** Written scripture is not the authority—the correct spiritual

interpretation of scripture from the Holy Spirit is.

Let me say that again: people think that if you just quote a verse from the Bible to support your views, that you must be right in your opinion. But this is wrong. The written text is not the reality or the truth—it is only a record of it and it can be misquoted, misunderstood, wrongly used and wrongly interpreted.

How was Paul led to preach to different areas of Asia minor and Europe and not others? Did he look through the scrolls of the prophets and find buried among the prophecies: ‘Paul’ ... ‘go to’ ... ‘Mace’ ... ‘a’ ... ‘Don I Ah!’ ... is that how Paul was led in the direction of his ministry? No it wasn’t. He was led by the Spirit speaking clearly and understandably to him through a vision during the night—a prophetic encounter. It was by the Spirit’s witness and clear instructions that he took this direction. This is meant to be an example for the rest of us!

The real words of God, the reality of what God has spoken, is spirit. His words are spirit. And so the real meaning of what He has spoken is only revealed, you guessed it, by the Spirit, in spirit; it is spiritual truth and so we must discern in the spirit to find this truth.

But what is worse is that people who don’t discern in the spirit find ‘confirmation’ in whatever they want to, to prove God is saying whatever they want to hear or believe.

Jesus said judging by mere appearances is not true judgment. We need to let go of the possible outcome and give it to the Lord, hands off, and let Him tell us what is what, otherwise we are leaning upon our own will and our own understanding, and not leaning upon God to learn from Him what is true and what his will for us is!

Anyway, seek the Lord, not just spiritual ‘experiences’

Back to the main point of this section, personally, I do not think we should SEEK to talk to saints who have passed on because there is little real point and there are several potential pitfalls.

Yes, it must be recognized that the Lord allows saints across

the earthly veil to communicate sometimes, and while it may not be common, it certainly happens. We do need to be aware of the counterfeit, **but we need to be more aware of the reality in the Holy Spirit**, which when people are ready, they will discover for themselves, but which we can guide them into faster and easier, which is one reason why we are called to minister to them, to help them grow faster, avoid deception and the enemy's traps.

But I again want to advise you not to talk to people about it who are still grappling with basic issues of life in the spirit, or who are bitter in heart, unhealed emotionally or still un-sanctified, un-purified or are dealing with the religious spirit, since it really is not an important point and such spiritually weak people are very likely to sharply argue about it.

So I caution you to please not make a big deal about this area, because like I said, talking with angels pales in comparison to talking with Jesus or the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Anyway, Jesus is Omnipresent and ALWAYS has time to talk with you, giving you what amounts to his undivided attention.

The Holy Spirit can tell you *anything you want to know* and He is more important than an angel, a saint, even a Patriarch. So why waste time dealing with the middleman? Just go right to the source!

In fact, when we've taught communion in groups to people who may not be *theologically* ready for all that God wants them to enjoy, we've just skipped over most of the deep scriptural discussion **until after they've already spoken to God and know it's real, and its been very effective.** It is then often THEY who afterwards come up with these deeper questions and really want to know what we've experienced of the deeper spiritual life because by now they know what they've been taught is not all there is to it.

Once their hearts are ready, strengthened by grace, since they've actually touched God in spirit in an undeniable way, you can then begin to explain things more deeply. **But until the sanctification of the Spirit prepares them for real meat, they will get overloaded very easily and resist deeper truths, even mocking and blaspheming them.**

There are some 'pearls' that we are not to share with just anyone! 'Swine' are people like you and me but who are not yet

‘clean,’ and so tend to attack deep truths when overloaded.

We need strength from the Holy Spirit to comprehend such deep truths—**not a discussion, but an impartation of grace!**

That’s why Paul prayed for spiritual strength to enable people to let Christ dwell in them, and more power to be able to comprehend his great love—not a lesson in theology to expand their intellectual perspective.

Ephesians 3:16-19

*¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches **he may strengthen you with power** through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷**so that Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸**may have power, together with all the Lord’s people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,** ¹⁹**and to know this love that surpasses knowledge**—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Arguments of doctrine and discussions of deep mysteries do not draw people closer to God.

And leading people into communion or basic prayer journaling is so easy it may actually be a disservice to explain it too much beforehand.

I tell people who are skeptical, to just try it and see what happens. Guard your heart by prayer, but be open to the Holy Spirit; ask God to protect you from deception or any false voice or revelation and trust God to do just that and see what happens when you approach Him, asking Him to speak with you. He just may do it.

In a group of people, it works well enough that no one wants to be the only one left out, and those who are normally problem cases and resist the Holy Spirit don’t want to be the only ones God doesn’t speak to in a group either, so when others around them start to share what God told them, and it’s obviously real, they usually press in even more! And that’s fine. God is there and will use almost anything to get us to humble ourselves and seek Him—even our own pride and embarrassment if it comes down to that!

Chapter 5

Ministry Through Communion:

Being Someone's 'Communion Co-Pilot'

Experiencing spiritual communion with God has changed our lives. It has helped us grow and know God and discover our identity in Him in such deep ways.

But beyond experiencing it for ourselves we've also learned that we can guide another person through communion with the Holy Spirit, leading them to find the Lord directly—direct connect—and we can do this as a way to minister to them beyond counseling, beyond prophesying to them.

This is where this lesson becomes the single most powerful tool in the hands of God's servants to build up His People to personally *know* Him.

I may not be gifted with finding great nomenclature, I call this being a 'Communion Co-pilot,' maybe you can think of a better term, that's great, but what I really want you to catch is how to do this and lead someone else into communion as a way of letting God minister to them directly, to heal, teach, impart and fellowship with them in spirit in truth directly.

If you can learn this, you will literally be able to raise up the Lord's end time army in terms of weeks and months, not years and decades. I am not exaggerating. It is easy and effective, more effective than any other kind of teaching, training or ministry we can do as people—I am convinced of this. There are a few things to get the knack of, but nothing is very complicated. **If you can figure this kind of ministry out, and please do, and so start to lead people into communion as a way of ministering to them and letting them be touched and taught by God, you will unleash the Kingdom on Earth like lighting the fuse to a battery of fireworks.**

Communion is Fellowship with the Holy Spirit

When we teach people to first hear from the Holy Spirit we often explain it in conceptual terms of Mark Virkler's 'prayer journaling,' although we begin to move beyond mere journaling soon enough into more interactive personal ministry and spiritual experiences, which is why we now call it Communion.

When we minister as someone's communion 'co-pilot,' they are still in the pilot's seat, flying with the Holy Spirit, but your confidence and boldness to approach God (your faith), and understanding of how to navigate the barriers of the soul that interrupt their ability to interact and 'behold' God will help lead them to the Lord's embrace more quickly than if they were left to discover God on their own.

Growing personally in the spirit, struggling with all the intangible issues of personal character development on your own is a slow, sometimes haphazard process. The Holy Spirit is always with us, and so I know it is not entirely right to call it haphazard, but we see a true acceleration in personal growth when we help someone plug into God as their own teacher and companion.

What took us many years to experience, we can lead a person to experience in 15 minutes, no joke. What took us many years to grow into in terms of character and Christ-likeness, we can lead people to embrace and experience in just a few weeks or short months.

So we lead people more into 'journaling' when we want direction or to be taught by God, **but when people come in need of emotional restoration and need personal ministry we will start right off by experiencing a deeper time of communion where it is less about teaching and instruction or revelation and is more about God touching them in spirit and healing their broken hearts, imparting grace and restoring the *zoe* of eternal life to them.**

... Beyond Counseling, Beyond Prophesying

When people need counseling, most of us counsel by simply telling people what the Bible says about their problems and what kinds of things they should do, usually along moral lines. This is

right and good, but it does not always help a person, especially if they lack the spiritual strength to follow through.

When we learn to rely more openly on the Holy Spirit’s advice instead of just our own familiarity with the Bible, it is more effective. We listen to someone’s problems, the ones they share, and try to get some understanding or clarity from the Holy Spirit whether what they shared was true, how true, and what we should tell them, or pray for them, to lead them to wholeness. This is still biblical counseling, since the Bible is the written expression of God’s truth, which the Holy Spirit will always confirm and apply.

The Holy Spirit would often give me insight, or a verse, and a way of explaining things to minister to a person, which is far better than just relying on my opinions, but it still took a long time and was not often very effective, meaning people did not often change quickly unless they already really wanted to break free from the bondages of the past. This is very much like giving advice or like traditional psychological counseling still.

We move past just giving advice when we pray and try to lead a person to actual wholeness, but this is normally beyond what most call counseling, and gets into what some call inner healing, a more active ministry time beyond emotional, psychological, logical or rational avenues, since it usually stems more from prayer, intercession and laying on hands to minister to the spiritual roots of a problem. Inner healing is an important area of ministry that is very effective and greatly needed, and I encourage more people to function in it.

Later when we started to get more confidence in prophesying to people personally, which is another way of saying when our faith increased, we’d lay hands on people and prophesy and pray for them, binding and loosing what we saw in the spirit that we wanted to remove or what we wanted to release, and rebuking different things that we saw in the spirit, calling others into being, etc.

This was better than giving advice because previously ministry was hindered by the person’s own faith, understanding and conscious willingness to deal with a specific issue—that’s hard! When someone is trying to quit smoking and you need their will power engaged to make the break, if they are bound by deception

and addiction, they may never have enough confidence and willpower to believe for their own freedom. Sometimes it is good to let people deal with things on their own, but not usually. If they could deal with things on their own, they would have already done so and they wouldn't be coming to you for help! Sometimes people are confused and don't know what they need but know they need something, and that's when we are asked to minister to their needs to help them where and when they can't help themselves.

So ministering to a person prophetically and through prayer is much better than just counseling them, because you can deal with the spiritual roots of a problem directly and don't only need to rely on their faith, understanding or sometimes even their willingness to do it.

The problem is, it is still often an external remedy, the power for change is coming through me, and is related to my time, my compassion praying and prophesying over them. This can be very unhelpful, even destructive, especially if it goes on for a long time and a person begins to see me as the answer to their problems.

Counseling and Prophesying are both very important and powerful areas of ministry, and we still find the need to do them, but it often does not cause people to really grow, even if it helps them get out of a rut or solve a specific obstacle.

This is especially limited if they start to see YOU as the source of their healing, insight and freedom.

Whenever they are in trouble, they call you!

They don't think God will answer their prayers but they believe God will answer yours!

They see a demon and ask God to tell you to pray to rebuke it.

Your ministry to them is a kind of stop-gap measure, bearing their weakness until Christ is formed enough in them so that they can take mature responsibility for their own growth, but if you do not find a way to empower them to find God themselves, they will always lean on you, and you will end up sabotaging them from ever becoming a disciple of Christ, standing with Him on their own.

Ministry Through Communion as a 'Co-pilot'

Now I know that we all need others in the Body, and that will never really change. And I ask for prayer from others more than most people do, partly because I do not want to cultivate an image of invincibility, and partly because sometimes I really do need the help of my friends, even from people who I minister to.

But this is not what I'm talking about.

Being a part of a community of believers who all look out for each other is not the same thing as thinking you are hopelessly weak and unspiritual but happen to live nearby some superheroes who have all the answers. This is the imbalance that is cultivated when ministry goes in one direction, or when the ministers act invincible, or when they act mystical, hiding the source of their spiritual power. Most of this behavior in ministers comes from insecurity and selfishness, and it is very destructive, and I will not do this, and I would hope you never do it either!

There are times my friends call me for prayer or for a prophetic word, but there are times when I ask *the very same people* to pray for me and get a word for me! That makes me look human to them, which I am, and makes them feel like I treat them as equals, which I do, since they are! I mean Jesus even asked the disciples to pray for Him in the garden of Gethsemane! Think about that!

So there are times I ask my friends to seek the Lord for me or pray for me, or they ask me to seek for them or pray for them, but there are times when we all need to seek God for ourselves. This is what I am talking about.

In real community we don't wear masks of invincibility but let our own real human weaknesses be known to each other. This is right and will keep people from idolizing the more mature ones or shunning the less mature ones.

This is love in action in my opinion.

So when we minister we need to not make people feel dependent upon us because of our gifts or walk with the Lord. When we counsel or teach, pray or prophesy over people, this kind of power distance tends to build up, and honestly most ministers maintain this 'distance' justifying it with all kinds of carnal reasons: it keeps people's faith strong when they don't know your weaknesses; it keeps the tithes coming in because they see you as

a 'man of God'; it is right to avoid the 'appearance of evil' so we have to cling to the 'appearance of perfection' ... what a bunch of nonsense!

I think ministers who do this are in sin! Period! Yes, this is my humble opinion, take it or leave it, but I think the Holy Spirit would agree!

And if a person wants to really press in and grow and learn more, how are they going to do that if all they've experienced is you praying for and prophesying over them? If you are the one through whom they are always experiencing God, your role as servant easily becomes their power source, and instead of helping them stand on their own two feet in God's love for them, they become dependent upon you. That's the opposite of what you wanted and the opposite of what they need!

The Fruit of a Ministry: Bondage or Freedom?

Keeping people dependent on a minister or ministry may be the result of innocent oversight on behalf of some leaders. But very often it is the fruit of a demonic spirit of oppression or abuse of power or control at work within the ministry or community.

People need to be allowed to grow and find the roles of service God intends for them to fill—**this is the fruit of God's Spirit at work in a community; the people grow up, participate freely, and so find and practice and eventually learn to walk in their callings in the Body in freedom and confidence.**

But ministries dominated by any anti-Christ spirit notoriously 'bind' people to the organization instead of 'releasing' them to serve the Lord or the community's real spiritual needs. The real purpose of ministry is to empower and equip regular people, to lead them to know the Lord personally, to heal the brokenhearted, to release the captives, to enlighten the blind with true spiritual insight ... but so much of our church and ministry activities and programs tie up people's time, energy and money, claiming to be serving the Lord, but so often they don't come close to achieving the eternal goals they exist to accomplish. They don't fulfil the commission of the Lord they claim to serve in running their

ministries, so all the time and effort spent by so many believers ends up bearing no eternal fruit.

The Holy Spirit IS the ministry that brings the Kingdom and the wholeness of Christ into people’s lives. Programs can help to organize tasks, and events can bring people together, but most often the very programs and events that are supposed to lead people to God become *substitutes* for the Holy Spirit instead of ways to lead people to Him in freedom and spontaneous interaction. So the very construction we made to build the Kingdom ends up lacking the only component that will achieve the desired results, which is God’s holy presence.

What we actually discovered, without even looking for it, is that by helping people experience communion as a ‘co-pilot’ —helping them to experience one-on-one interactive communication with the Holy Spirit, that we’ve found a solution to these and many other problems and shortcomings of much of our human ministry.

Instead of having to pretend that we have all the answers, are perfect, or invincible, or that the power of God is our own private label, Jesus wants us to be honest and humble and empower others directly with the same power we have found, to let them grow, to grow as equals, to be given the opportunity to minister to us and the community as they are able, and even to be allowed to grow past us and take on whatever role the Lord is leading them to walk in: prophet, apostle, healer, pastor or whatever.

Where are tomorrow’s prophets and apostles?

You will soon understand that all the people who will one day fulfill the various roles of the Body including the archetypal “five-fold” offices are already here among us. They are in our home groups already, in our small churches, even in our families. We only need to help them mature in spirit to find and activate their Kingdom callings for them to discover their roles. **Finding out how to access the training and personal help of the Holy Spirit is the best way to do this.**

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If we as ministers use our power and insight to promote ourselves we cannot achieve the goal of leading the Body to maturity, since at heart we are only focused on ourselves being able to minister. But if our ministry is to train ministers, then their success in finding and walking in the maturity that leads to them ministering is our success. **So yes, current leaders and ministers have been given power and insight, but we must use it to build up the regular people to mature in Christ which is how the Bride will mature.** That is the real purpose of learning to be a ‘co-pilot.’

We share it with others, so our Joy may be full

So when I engage in communion myself and I open my heart, my spirit to an interaction with the Lord, it is something that is between me and the Holy Spirit personally and it builds me up directly to mature and then to minister.

We’ve found that it is not only possible but fairly easy to meet God this way on our own. **But more than this, we’ve found how easy it is to lead someone else through communion as well and lead them to discover the direct source of empowerment, training, equipping and maturing that we’ve found.**

This way we mature, but so do others in the community, it in fact builds up the whole community so we all become mature.

Even when people have no real idea why or how it works, **we can so easily help them interact with the Holy Spirit directly, from day one, and we are just there at first to coach and guide them through the interaction**—but the contact with God on their end is personal and direct and they soon, often instantly, learn they can talk to God in open conversation in spirit after the very first time of doing this!

We may lead them in communion two or three times, but then it’s time for them to both try to do it themselves, and also for them to learn to lead someone else through it as well.

In doing so we may become obsolete very soon in a way of thinking and they step into the drivers’ seat of their own dynamic prayer life with the Holy Spirit, empowered to receive all we have received, and operate in all we operate in, and even find more.

People are empowered to break free from the position of eternally being a ‘sheep’ under other people and can become a joint-heir with us, a co-minister, not a ward but an equal brother or sister!

More importantly, when they’ve had an experience with the Lord, their spirits have been touched, healed, empowered, released and enlightened by the Lord directly. If we do this two or three times with a person they are often able to experience personal growth many dozens of times faster than a normal person trying to ‘know’ God by passive osmosis from just going to church. This is certainly the fast track!

So compared to traditional teaching, preaching sermons, counseling or even prophesying, not only are the results deeper, more effective and easier, but leading a person to meet God in spirit and in truth whereby the Holy Spirit becomes their real and personal counselor, teacher and real companion gives them a fast track to developing the depth of a personal relationship with Jesus, which lets them grow and mature into an authentic disciple of Jesus in weeks and months, not in years and decades as it was before.

There will ALWAYS be a place for counseling and prophesying, praying over people, teaching and correcting them. But leading people to enjoy personal communion is more powerful and the most wonderful ministry or spiritual service I can offer someone.

However, in a meeting, we’ve found combining various forms of ministry is best, meaning we combine regular fellowship, soaking and worship, spending time in personal communion, sharing and testimony and counseling, leading others through communion as a co-pilot, and small group ministry to each other through laying on hands, prophecy and intercession, all in one meeting.

We’ll talk more about this in a few pages, the way a typical meeting can be led, but first let’s talk more about leading someone else into communion as their ‘co-pilot.’

So when someone asks for ministry—let’s say they are having marital troubles, emotional problems, or want a word of direction from God—after they share and release their emotional burden if

they need to, and they are ready to listen and receive, maybe after we pray for them and address their strongest worries, we ask them if they want to talk to Jesus directly and see what He has to say.

They usually say yes, and that is all they need for me to be able to lead them into communion, a willing, open heart.

Brief instructions are all that is usually needed

It helps sometimes to explain a little about spiritual communion first, about talking with the Holy Spirit, who the Holy Spirit is, where He dwells, and things like that—but explaining too much can be a major distraction and can confuse people. Better to save the teaching for a lesson time, not a personal ministry time if you can, especially when a person is in a crisis.

But if I do want to explain a little, I simply ask people if they know what the Holy Spirit is, and **say that He is the full personality, mind, will, emotions, memory, character and power of God**, and that we can talk with the Holy Spirit and be taught all things by Him. (1 John 2:27).

I then ask them, “And where is the Holy Spirit? Somewhere far off in heaven?” They usually say, “In my heart,” but often only think of this in doctrinal not actual terms. I agree with them, **that He IS in their heart and that is a literal fact.**

I also simply explain that we often can't hear or see God if our spiritual eyes and ears are closed and so they should pray to open them. I often sing that song, “Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. **Open the eyes of my heart, I want to see you.**” **That is what they should pray.**

But also that the Holy Spirit is a wind; He is a river and like water He too will flow *around* a hard stone, but will flow *through* a soft heart. **So they should soften and open their hearts.** Since He is a river that flows, and if He is flowing and our hearts are open, we'll hear and see Him—**so we should just invite the Holy Spirit to flow** and that will help them have something to listen to!

Then when we start I ask them to fix the eyes of their hearts on Jesus by **making a picture of Him, focusing on it, and then telling me what they see when they tune in.**

That is all the teaching I like to do during a real ministry time. That’s all that most people need.

An Ungodly Fear of God

Usually when sincere people start to see the possibility of talking with God, and asking Him about their problems, they begin to become hopeful, but a little wary. Will God rebuke them? Their carnal fears may emerge. Will God tell them they’re going to Hell? They start to face the big questions of life and it can be scary even for, well especially for some Christians.

And so I try to ease them through this initial concern as best I can, without sugar coating the real image and character of God. I tell them God loves them sincerely, and their fears are unfounded if they are in Christ, and just ask them to simply try it out, approach God and see if He bites or bandages them—they soon realize their idea or image of God is completely wrong! God is the same yesterday, today and forever, but when we approach Him through Christ, He is Honest, but Loving, Almighty, but Gentle, the Judge of All, but Forgiving beyond what we would think is reasonable!

My advice to you as a co-pilot is only to talk as much as you need to, to lead a person to open their hearts, and then when they are in the presence of God, to slow down and let the Holy Spirit drive the experience. It is easy to talk so much we distract people from interacting with Him in spirit.

So let people meet God and let God explain and reveal Himself to them as He wants to—all our talk and sermons amount to a hill of beans compared to God teaching people about Himself in spirit and in truth.

Also, understand that there is NO formula or set way to interact with the Holy Spirit. I can give you some advice, but God interacts

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with everyone a little differently. We still find some similar patterns, similar advice God gives, some obvious blocks that need to be removed and some obvious things that always bear fruit. So we have some advice that will help you get started, but once you find your way you may want to modify how you explain things to people according to your own revelation.

But again, what we find works in a general way is simply to start by preparing people by introducing some basic ideas by asking them:

- 1. What is the Holy Spirit, simply explaining He is God's mind will and emotions, personality or character. And,**
 - 2. Where is He? Simply agreeing that He is in their hearts in a literal sense. Then,**
 - 3. Raising the point that He is like a river and needs to flow.**
- But also,**
- 4. That our hearts have to be open to talking and 'seeing' Him, to letting Him flow through us.**

Then we get ready by,

- 5. Quieting down in a prayerful peace. And,**
- 6. Asking God to open the eyes of our hearts so we can see or 'behold' Him. And,**
- 7. Asking the Holy Spirit, inviting the Holy Spirit to come and to flow. Then,**
- 8. To 'fix their eyes on Jesus' and search for Him until they can localize Him in vision in their hearts, and start to share and record what they see.**

That's all it takes to get things started. Pretty simple if you ask me. And I give a person a few seconds to do this, and I also usually pray with the person to ask the Holy Spirit to flow and to open the eyes and ears of their hearts myself. I often lay hands on their back or head but often don't touch them and just hold my hand close to them when I do this so I won't distract them or they may think they only can hear God when someone is laying hands on them!

Basic Troubleshooting

If you feel uneasy in heart, or if it is taking a long time, you may want to rebuke the enemy in Jesus' name, bind his ability to speak or distract you, cast him out from the place, close the ears of the person to hearing satan's voice, and even pray to 'bind' or fasten their hearts to the Lord's Spirit. Invite the Lord to release His Spirit, to release his peace into your hearts, and release his ministering angels to protect and help you, and then try again.

If a person feels unsure about how to 'look at Jesus' or how to 'fix their hearts on Jesus,' I may say, "You've seen pictures of Jesus with children, or holding a lamb, or with the disciples? Just start by thinking of or looking at such a picture in your heart."

I then often ask people to put themselves in that picture. This is much of what Mark Virkler encourages people to do to start as well, to 'fix' their spiritual eyes on Jesus, literally.

Some people resist the idea of 'imagining' because they feel it is something fake they are making up, and so I reassure them that it may seem like they are imagining things at first, but **they usually feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as well, and when He starts to animate their 'picture' they soon realize it is God really talking with them, and not something they are making up!**

We may start prayer by just speaking Jesus' name, but then He suddenly comes and fills our words with power and demons flee! Likewise, we may start by just focusing our heart on Jesus in an open, pictorial way, but when we do, He suddenly comes by the power of the Holy Spirit and meets us where our heart's 'vision' left off.

There are other people who can probably describe why this happens in more accurate terms than me. For now just trust me. Ask them to try it and see what happens.

After I've asked them to make a picture of the Lord, and I've given them a few seconds to start to flow in the Holy Spirit, maybe ten or twenty, I gently ask them, "Can you see Him?"

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If they say no, I pray again to open their eyes and invite the Holy Spirit to flow. Then ask them to look again.

Some people are a little immature and weak in spirit and just need more strengthening in the Lord's presence before their eyes are opened. They should just soak in the Lord, and worship more. It will soon open up.

Others are maybe a little scared of talking with God and may only allow themselves to see a light or feel His warmth. Such people need more prayer and growth as well, but may also need more inner healing, growth in grace, or sometimes just to press in harder.

Others who have trouble may be bound and blinded by the religious spirit, the demonic power that pretends to be the Holy Spirit and teaches false things about God. In the chapter in *Foundations* that discusses this I shared three tests or indications of the religious spirit the Lord taught me.

1. **Watch for the counterfeit**, since it always knows what God is doing and will always make a fake version. It talks the talk, but it cannot empower people to walk the walk.

2. **Spiritual death**, meaning the inability to flow in the Holy Spirit. Jesus flowed in the Holy Spirit like a kite in the wind, but those who are bound by the religious spirit are unable to obey or flow in the Holy Spirit in heart, and so exhibit a spiritual deadness to it.

3. **It is a trap** and people feel trapped, even if they are too proud to admit it and try to hide it from you. This is why they always tend towards ritual and formality since they are increasingly bound. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom—the opposite is true for the religious spirit.

Some people may be bound by the religious spirit. You can just break it off, and you don't even need to tell a person you are doing this for them, especially if they are going to be embarrassed or get defensive. Just break it! Worship some more. Pray some more in a group, seeking God, repenting, pressing in.

Whatever hiccups you may first encounter, don't be discouraged; it will soon click, especially if you are praying with them one-on-one. In a group of young believers, or those with many personal burdens, fears, sins or the religious spirit it may be hard to lead everyone into a deep face-to-face encounter. But in a normal group of believers most people will see Jesus very quickly, within a few seconds, less than half a minute usually. And that will help others to press in.

Can they describe what they see?

Once a person is in peace in the Holy Spirit and their spiritual eyes are opening and they can see a picture of Jesus in their hearts, I always start off by asking the people to describe what Jesus looks like, what He is wearing, what his attitude or expression is, what He is doing, (e.g., is He standing or sitting) and if they can see His face.

If they can explain any of these things, their hearts are usually flowing in open spiritual sight of the Holy Spirit and the interaction will already have begun.

The reason why I ask people to first describe Jesus is to see if they are really tuning into the flow of the Holy Spirit. If they are then they will normally be able to describe Him in some detail. This is when it first clicks that they are having a vision, when they see Jesus in such living detail. Many people will tell you how surprising it is to see Him for real because they realize they are not making it up but observing something, and many will also FEEL Him being there.

So they should try to describe what they see, and He may be moving, walking, making gestures; He will be in a field, on a throne, on a mountain, in the clouds, and sometimes He will already be talking to the person.

Describing Him in this way also helps them increase their focus and move past distractions and being nervous, and move into the depths of their hearts to interact more deeply with the Lord.

What if you can't see His face?

A lot of people when they start to interact with the Lord in spirit and in truth are unable to see Jesus' face clearly. Others are afraid to touch him. Some won't even go near Him. This is all indicative of their real level of trust and intimacy with the Lord. We have a lot of barriers in our hearts that we are not even aware of, but God sees them and can help us remove and overcome them all.

People are often afraid God disapproves of them. Others don't feel forgiven. Others feel unworthy to approach Him. This is why it helps to walk someone through communion a few times as a way of ministering to people's heartfelt needs for reassurance, a sense of forgiveness and the personal knowledge that Jesus indeed wants their company—the experience of God's love, beyond theology.

Try to get around a blockage by interacting in a safer environment, seeing Him from a distance, or seeing Him with others such as the disciples or a group of children. You never know what will lead a person into breakthrough.

Some people are just nervous about facing God; they feel shame or guilt. All these things should be gently addressed and overcome to lead a person into more unbridled intimacy.

So if someone can't see Jesus' face, lead them to interact with Him a little first; take small steps. I may ask them to hold his hand and tell me how it feels. I may ask them to tell me what is Jesus' attitude like? Is He angry or happy? They look from their hearts and see his happiness and then I say, so you can see Him smile then? That is enough for many people to overcome their barriers of fear and see his face clearly.

Or ask them to walk with Him along a beach and even ask Him, "Why can't I see your face yet?" Even after five minutes in the spirit interacting with the Lord a person can get over this awkwardness, or receive enough grace, and begin to see Him more clearly.

Others I may ask to picture Him with some children and to tell me what the children are doing. Invariably the children are smiling and laughing, and so you can ask, "So Jesus isn't angry with them?"

"No," they'll say. "He's happy. The kids are happy."

And if you ask them to describe Jesus' face as He interacts with these children, they can usually see Him more clearly since the personal issue is sidestepped and they have begun to understand from experience in heart that Jesus is safe. **But once they truly see Jesus is approachable in spirit, in truth, it is usually enough to give them the confidence to draw near and see His face more clearly and start to interact with Him more openly.**

Aside from a personal block, a person may just lack having enough grace (God's empowerment) in their spirits. This is remedied by worship or just seeking more spiritual strength directly. This is something you can pray for a person, laying hands on them, and asking the Lord to release more grace to strengthen them. The impartation may only take a few seconds! But they may only open up after six months! Be eager ... but patient.

And if people can see Jesus' face, I often invite them to look right into His eyes and tell me what they see, or how it makes them feel. This is very powerful! Some can't do this at first but just the other day a lady who had been recently saved did this and saw deeply right into His eyes, right into His Divine Soul! What did she see? "Love. And kindness. And counsel," she said. She really was just saved a short time.

Why ask God Questions?

When we start to interact with Jesus in spirit we like to lead people to ask Him a few questions.

But why should we have to ask Jesus anything at all?

If He already knows what you are going to ask before you do, why not just sit back and let Him tell you what you need to hear? This is true actually, but not often how He interacts with us. We find that we need to be open and curious, active not passive, attentive and eager to understand and know Him for an encounter to be most fruitful.

So asking the Omniscient God a question is not for HIS SAKE, but FOR OURS. It is how we step out towards Him in confidence to be able to receive his advice or insight on a certain topic. Standing

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in front of Him with nothing on your mind, waiting for Him to tell you something is also effective when we are open and trusting. But the Bible does say that we are to draw near to Him first, and also that we are to ask, seek and knock.

But if God knows you want something, then why do we have to ask for it, to seek it, and to knock to have it opened to us; why won't He just give it to us as soon as we desire it?

I really don't know, but we see this dynamic at work very obviously.

God speaks to us on His initiative often to stir us up, create hunger in us, to carry us when we are going astray. But when we are mature enough to approach Him with unveiled face and behold Him, the onus of interaction shifts back towards a more neutral position and we relate one to another on what I want to say is more equal terms. God interacts with us as a person. It's exciting and humbling all at once.

And God is funny. He's all powerful, but never forces his way. He is the most lovely being in the universe, yet He hides himself. He is the answer to all we can hope or ask for, desire or need, but He stands at the door and knocks and asks if we would please let Him in.

So really He wants you to step up to Him and seek Him; you may really get nowhere being lazy and passive. Maybe you need more strengthening before you can receive an answer from Him and you need to invest more diligence in being open to Him before what you want and desire can be released or revealed. That's OK; it's not hard to do such things. And I don't know exactly why, but God does things like this.

And we come to understand that when He gives us advice like 'ask, seek, knock,' and that He wants us to draw near to Him first, then we'd be wise to trust Him and do it, and worry about the details later!

He told me this one time. That it is good to ask questions about why He wants us to do a thing, or why something is good or bad ... but there comes a time to just trust Him and do it.

Spiritual Communion is Fully Interactive

And also notice that this communion is FULLY INTERACTIVE; it is not a movie. You can speak to Jesus, ask Him questions, and respond to what He shows you. You can ask Him to show you something, take you someplace, and tell you personal, intimate things, even about other people!

During an encounter I always tell people to interact with God in whichever way He is leading, to hold out things they want Him to take and to receive whatever He will give them, even to ask for a gift or a surprise, and whatever He gives them, to receive it and put it into their own chests embracing His gifts in their hearts.

Ask Jesus some basic but important questions:

There is no formula or set way to relate to the Lord in spirit. So once you become comfortable, you’ll surely find your own style or personal way to talk with Him. But to help you get started, these are some things we have found are easy and effective.

After people can start to see Jesus in spirit, I like to have people ask Jesus two or three basic questions before they ask about their personal problems, such as **Who are you? Who am I? Do you love me? And Is there anything you want to tell me?** This is why:

I like to first ask them, “Ask Jesus, ‘Who are you?’”

Yes, we know it is Jesus, but we want HIM to explain himself, not the person to tell us their theology. Let Jesus speak for himself!

So if you ask the person to ask Jesus this, and they say, “I know who Jesus is; He is my savior.” Politely say, “That’s great, but let’s ask Jesus to tell you for himself. You never know what He will say.” You are not testing them on their doctrine, but trying to get them to interact with God in spirit.

When we do this, Jesus can say anything!! But He often tells people things like, “I am your God,” or “I am your friend,” or “I am your brother.” But one time He revealed himself to me as a great cosmic nebula—you know, a massive but vague cloud-like

form where stars are born. This was how He wanted to explain Himself to me (and later went on to show how I was like that too. I am His son after all!).

So when Jesus explains himself two important things happen:

First, He tells them what they need to hear of His nature and character that day, something very timely and personal.

Second, when He describes himself, it comes as a spiritual revelation not just a verbal lesson. In communion, God imparts in spirit and in truth when He explains things and they are usually received deeper and faster than when we minister externally by teaching, talking or even sometimes praying.

Second I like to ask people to ask Jesus, “Jesus, who am I?”

The reason why I ask people to ask Jesus to tell them who they are is because our new identity only really matures and gets transformed when we spend time having God show us who we are in his sight. Our old identity is based mostly on our upbringing, our race, our family, our gender, our talents, jobs, earthly experiences and how we see ourselves within our circumstances, within the carnal, temporary, fallen world around us.

Asking Jesus who we are lets Him lavish his love on us and redefine our personal identities based on his eternal perspective, the eternal truth of our lives in Christ, freeing us from the confines of our earthly upbringing.

THIS IS A MAJOR KEY TO MATURING AND WALKING IN THE KINGDOM!

It is being transformed, understanding your new name, the identity of your new self, which is the path toward embracing your full identity as a son of God, the same solid foundation Jesus had—his Son-ship—which, I am convinced, is why He was able to be so great, walking in such power and responsibility without drawing his identity from it.

Our identity automatically grows as we behold or ‘see’ God, and are transformed from glory (His) to glory (Him reflected within

us), (2 Corinthians 3:18, etc.) but we have found the real need and wonderful results that asking Him who we are directly, has as well.

Third, I ask people to ask Jesus, “Jesus, do you really love me?”

Christians are conditioned to answer this question as a reflex and feel too ashamed to ever admit they don’t really believe it personally or have never really felt or experienced God’s love for themselves. **In fact, most people only know God’s love doctrinally and have no real or at least no recent personal experience of it until this kind of interaction.** So I like to give people the nudge to approach God and ask Him this key question. The responses and reactions are so beautiful.

Some people have a hard time when you ask them to ask Jesus this question, and really insist they know God loves them so why bother asking and they pull back. You often sense pride, insecurity and even fear in their voice because it is such a major, life defining reality and most people don’t want to face the question in case it is not true!

I politely tell them, until we have heard God say it, it’s just doctrine and theology! So go ahead and ask Him, and just see what He says!

You don’t ever really FEEL like you are loved by God or really KNOW IT or really think you are one of his children until HE TELLS YOU SO. And this is your chance to ask Him, and He will tell you, and will tell you often, eloquently, even passionately!

We tend to ask Him these questions nearly every time we get into communion!! And it is always personal, new and very wonderful.

Many people break down in tears at this moment. When Jesus tells them—He imparts to them this deep healing of his true love—their walls of pain, the years of loneliness and the darkness of fears of abandonment melt away ... it is truly such a beautiful freedom to witness someone receive!

This is a vital step in real ministry that you don't want to rush or neglect.

Fourth, we should respond to prophecy and vision.

Sometimes in response to prophecy in a meeting we lead people to interact with the Lord accordingly. **If He spoke to someone very clearly about a certain way He wants to come and bless people, or if He reveals a certain part of his character or love, we lead people to meet Him and ask Him about this to receive it for themselves.**

We also encourage people to interact with God in whichever way He is leading. We may ask Him to give us something, or hold out things we want Him to take from us (burdens, people we care for, etc.), and then to receive whatever He will give us. We sometimes ask Him for a surprise, or a gift, or fruit, or whatever, and **when He gives us something, I ask people to actively embrace it, grab it in the spirit, and place it in their hearts to make sure they receive what it is He is offering them.** That is something I learned a while ago, that God may offer us something, but we need to receive it fully as well! So we do that in spirit when we interact with the Lord. I've seen two physical healings just by doing this.

Fifth, expect the Lord to minister inner healing

Remembering from chapter two from *Foundations*, that the model of our new life in Christ that was prophesied in Isaiah 61 describes the way Jesus begins our transformation by “healing the brokenhearted” — this is the first real step of experiencing the gospel of the Kingdom and is the most important aspect of communion most people begin to experience — God healing their broken hearts and restoring their souls.

You should be open to lead people to explore any area of unhealed pain because while we want to ‘forget the past, and leave it behind us,’ sometimes people are unable to because a wound remains hidden and un-surrendered to the Lord. This is

a real block to intimacy and maturity because it causes an enemy stronghold or wounded area of darkness to remain in operation in their hearts.

Jesus actually told me this, that inner healing is often very much needed, especially when our spiritual growth hits a plateau. We never need to stop growing in the Lord on earth, and in fact we continue to grow for eternity in heaven, but if we have blockages or unhealed, un-surrendered areas of our souls, it will prevent further maturity. **He told me, “After you get born again much inner healing is still needed. The Promised Land has walled cities in the best locations.”** This is another way the Lord talks about a root or stronghold of pain or bitterness in a person.

We need ministry by receiving God’s healing and empowering grace to be restored, if not and we keep our wounds, we inevitably end up hurting many other people.

Hebrews 12:15, *“See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”*

Very sound advice, and why it is very important to experience deep and complete inner healing, but also why we should seek to approach the throne of grace (the subject of chapter eight in *Foundations*), and especially open our hearts through communion with Jesus, to help conquer and liberate these ‘walled cities’ and continue on the path to maturity.

So leading a person to see their past areas of wounding, to ask Jesus to show what He was doing at that time, and leading a person to healing and freedom over those wounds of the past is very powerful and effective—even essential ministry.

But be careful please, especially if very sensitive things start to emerge. People are often raped or molested and forget or block the event until the Holy Spirit starts to heal these deep wounds. If things are becoming very personal and it may embarrass the person in front of others in the group, now or later, you may want

to stop and continue in a more private setting, or maybe just move to a quiet part of the room, or ask people who may not handle knowing such deeply personal problems very well to leave and give you some privacy. People can have coffee and chat anywhere, anytime, but if the Lord is moving to free one of his children, I think you should use wisdom, but also to take it seriously and make it a priority to ensure they get their freedom, even if it becomes the main focus for the rest of the meeting.

If you are ministering to a person privately anyway, **it is probably better to have two ministers work together**, one as prayer backup and for some kind of accountability—but especially in mixed gender settings—but let one person primarily lead the ministry, since it can be confusing for a person to listen to two people ‘co-pilot’ them at the same time, since they usually have different ideas of where they want to lead a time of ministry.

You don’t need to counsel or psychoanalyze a person to lead them to freedom from the past if you lead a person into the loving presence of the Great Physician. Physical healings are very important but we can have broken physical bodies and still go to heaven.

Inner healing, healing a broken heart, is actually much more important ministry since the heart is eternal, and having a broken heart can be a real impediment to entering the Kingdom of heaven, much more so than having a broken foot!

So God will always draw people to the healing of their hearts if they will follow his leading. It may not be the first thing He does, but it is always necessary to move on to the higher realms of glory in Christ.

Sometimes God does this by imparting personal revelation of His love or care, overshadowing them in His Spirit or any number of things. **But often He doesn’t want to merely heal an old human heart, He wants to replace it.** We often lead people to stand in front of Jesus and offer Him their heart which is wounded and broken, and so often Jesus takes it away, and instead of merely returning it fixed, He gives them His own heart in its place!

Sixth, we also ask the Lord to teach us.

We should do this even in a group, especially to explain areas of the Bible that we don't understand, or think we do but may have been taught wrongly by man! It's nice to do this in a group because the picture the Lord gives is usually much bigger and more detailed than if only one person asks Him. Interpretation of Scripture BELONGS to God, and when we on our own decide what a thing means, and then teach others our opinions, or are taught men's doctrines ... well, it's not good. God will be our teacher if we let Him and I find in a group setting it's a fun way to learn as well. We'll have everyone go to the Lord in spirit and ask Him to explain a verse or an idea or our callings or whatever. He speaks to everyone a little differently, explaining different aspects of a thing and sometimes telling different people the same thing, but it all fits together, and it's a nice way to get everyone sharing in a group.

Seventh, we want to give people the chance to ask Him about their own pressing issues.

Often the Lord will already address these things on His own initiative, but sometimes what we feel is important and what worries us is not what the Lord knows is really important. Sometimes we get upset at the cares of life that He is already dealing with, and the problem is not our physical needs, but our trust!! When we offer these concerns to God, He will either address them directly, show us the solution (which is usually to have faith to receive what He has already provided for us within our inheritance), or tell us to commit a person or an outcome to Him, or showing us that the problem is not the circumstances but again our attitudes or lack of trust ... either way we'll get to the bottom of a problem soon enough and we can have peace again!

Eighth, we then want to give Jesus the floor!

Finally, we should give Jesus the freedom to speak about whatever He thinks is most important. That is something I also

learned from Mark, to just ask, “Is there anything else, Lord, that you want to tell me today?” One time I asked Jesus this and He said, “Not what you think I’m going to say!” Other times He whisks us away to a remote scene, a mountain, a waterfall, the sky, a distant planet, God’s heavenly Throne.... You never know what Jesus wants to tell you or where He wants to talk with you, or what He wants to show you!

The main reason why we want people to ask Jesus if there is anything else He wants to say and to give Him the floor is because as soon as we get into the proper flow of the Holy Spirit, our hearts open and trusting, our pressing anxieties resolved and we can relax in His love, we ought to let HIM drive the conversation.

We do often have to ask Him questions to open ourselves up to a good time of fellowship with Him, but we must not forget that He does know everything—for example, **He knows what we’re going to face long before we face it, and so He leads us to prepare for things even before we know enough to even ask Him about them!**

We really learn to lean not upon our own understanding but in all our ways to acknowledge Him, trust Him, and that is when He will make our paths straight! If He says, “You need to rest in My Spirit,” but you don’t feel tired or stretched, it is because He knows what is coming your way and knows you may have the spiritual strength to feel OK today, but you don’t have enough to deal with what is coming up tomorrow! Take His leading seriously and rest in Him; it is the preparation you need for what is to come!

Combining Communion, sharing testimony and ‘Hot Seat’ prophetic prayer in a typical meeting

So learning to fellowship with the Lord, and especially to lead others into this kind of spiritual fellowship, is one of the greatest areas of ministry I have ever seen. But it, in itself, is not enough. We find the need to balance and combine this with other types of ministry and activities to make a well-rounded meeting, especially on a regular basis.

Ministry Through Communion as a 'Co-pilot'

We do a lot of small group meetings, which look very much like a home group or home cell meeting. We don't have a band or a stage, but sit in a small comfortable room in a circle. Music is usually handled by a CD player, or better a computer or Mp3 player so you can choose which tracks to play and in which order.

So while in our weekly ministry groups we now incorporate entering into a time of communion into every meeting we have, we also incorporate others types of ministry, such as soaking worship, prophetic prayer and placing someone in the 'hot seat' for personal attention.

There is no formula for how to interact with the Holy Spirit. But what we commonly do may look like this:

We may start by opening in prayer, either by holding hands in a circle, or just taking turns inviting the Lord to come, and asking Him to release his angelic ministering spirits.

Then we let everyone share what their week was like, which is important for several reasons. It helps us know people's needs, but God speaks to everyone during the week and we like to let them share with others what God has been telling them.

Then we may play some quiet music to relax and soak in the Holy Spirit and to give people the chance to talk with the Lord directly. After 30 minutes or more we'll ask people if they want to share what the Lord told them during their quiet time.

Most will share a personal insight, vision or experience, but some may only share feeling peace or being relaxed, especially if they are new.

This time of sharing will reveal what God is doing among the group and that will guide our next phases of ministry, which will be to lead everyone to receive the impartation of what the Lord is doing among us. We do this in small groups.

So after we have direction from the Lord from everyone's sharing, we'll get into small groups of three or four to pray for each other to lead everyone into a deeper experience of what the Lord revealed during the quiet soaking and communion time.

This gives everyone the chance to minister, and be ministered to, and is more private than sharing in front of the whole meeting.

In small groups everyone takes turns sitting in the middle in what we call the 'hot seat' and receiving from the others who will either lead that person through communion as a co-pilot, or to at

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least lay hands on that person and pray, prophesy, release and bind according to their needs and the Lord's direction to the group.

When we 'co-pilot' in a small group, we need to let one person lead the encounter because it is distracting for a person beholding the Lord in spirit when three or four people are all giving advice about the direction of the ministry.

So if someone else in the small group wants to suggest to the person in the 'hot seat' what they should do or ask the Lord, it is best that they whisper it to the one leading the ministry and let that person guide the ministry.

The others should pray and intercede during this time, but still be free to share what God has revealed to them personally during the ministry time, just try to keep things peaceful and smooth.

I also think everyone should not only have a chance to sit in the 'hot seat,' but they all should have a chance to lead someone else into communion as co-pilot as well because everyone needs to learn to minister.

So we try to make sure everyone gets the chance to sit in the 'hot seat' to receive, but also to lead someone else through a spiritual communion encounter themselves.

Small group dynamics: managed freedom, not control

And small groups naturally need the freedom to do what they want, especially when someone's personal needs surface that are not in the same general theme of the rest of the group ministry—the small groups need space and permission to follow the Lord to minister any way He wants, even if it means giving one person the 'hot seat' for an hour!

Although you may find some people will ALWAYS want to take an hour for themselves in the 'hot seat' and that is not right either. Everyone should have the same attention normally. And that usually means about 20 minutes each.

Having more people in a small group takes longer to give everyone personal ministry attention, so three or four people can go through such personal ministry in an hour or hour and twenty minutes. But a group of six or seven people will take two hours, or

longer or they'll have to rush the ministry. But sometimes a larger group can also be comforting to beginners, most of whom are only there to watch anyway! But sometimes people just need to watch the clock, not everyone can meet until 2 am every weeknight.

Leaders who are in charge need to manage, but not control the ministry in the small groups; make sure people are not getting sidetracked, and that no one person is hogging all the attention or controlling the group, but give them freedom to learn to follow the Holy Spirit's leading and try their own wings.

This is an important balance, especially when dealing with people who are harder to handle. Such people may just lack deep inner healing and may need long-term attention (that is, patience on your part mostly), especially if they tend to grow very slowly and avoid the times of ministry, which ironically is what they probably need the most.

Be patient, yes, but firm sometimes. Caring, yes, but not gullible, and we can't let a ministry time or group focus turn into a time to only care for one person's needs. So we have to manage, but not control. Ministry times are most rewarding when people benefit much from them, but we are also there for the hard cases!

Any real problems, bring them to the Lord, and ask Him what to do, or if He would just take care of things Himself!

Keep calm order, **but also understand that a little bit of chaos can be a good thing as well sometimes**, especially if it gives people the chance to get involved and try to help deal with things and solve problems. We learn much about ministry while on the job, and so we should treat hiccups as learning opportunities, not catastrophes, and watch God turn all things around for good, and this helps empower people not panic when unexpected things happen, and they do happen!

But deal with disruptions primarily in the spirit by prayer, especially at first. Bind and rebuke distracting and disruptive spirits, and then pray for the people through whom they work for more strength from the Holy Spirit to resist the devil and not be used by the enemy.

Be calm, be peaceful, manage, pray ... do not worry or panic, don't 'control' or act 'forceful,' especially when you encounter turbulence, which you certainly will. It is one of the reasons you are there, to help lead people through the stormy seas. God is with

you, you are not alone. Be of good courage, relax, pray, trust God to help you sort things out.

Achieving the goal of 'knowing' God

So clearly there are many benefits to learning to commune with the Lord in spirit, and also in learning how to minister to people this way as well, instead of merely counseling or prophesying.

When you want to counsel someone with God's advice for their personal or emotional needs, or if you were to listen to the Holy Spirit and prophesy to them what God is telling you for them, there is often still a layer of interference—but when you lead that person to hear the Holy Spirit talk to them directly, personally from within their own hearts, the layers of communication interference and the chances of misunderstanding, indifference or mistaken counsel are largely removed.

God tells them what they need, at the level they need to hear it, at the level they can receive it. He also addresses unknown blockages often, and ministers needed healing in areas that even the people themselves have forgotten about or are not conscious of. This kind of personal ministry is the most powerful that I've ever seen ministered on a consistent basis, and you will be able to function in this very easily if you just apply yourself, doing so within the empowering grace of the Holy Spirit.

It is also very good to release a community of believers into exercising this kind of personal ministry themselves—this is actually the equipping of the saints to do the work of the ministry that Ephesians 4:11-16 talks about!

Also consider that the real goal of the ministry of the gospel is so people can *know* God. We try to do this by talking, preaching, and teaching doctrines—some people even use threats and coercion—but none of this causes people to *know* God. **Only encountering God in spirit causes a person to know Him.** When you lead a person through personal communion they meet the real God, in real time, in reality.

And since by leading a person through communion you are actively helping them overcome many of their personal barriers

which make intimacy and personal trust of God difficult, you will help accelerate their maturing. **Ultimately you are introducing them to the Holy Spirit as their own personal counselor, teacher and companion. It is easy, much easier than any other kind of ministry; it is more fruitful and also more fun!**

The Desire of your Heart

But people who are a little timid, or are nervous about being able to do something as profound as talking with God in spirit, will be comforted to know that the primary thing that you need to be able to talk with God is really just Desire, just to want to. Your desire, your confidence, basically your faith, is the key ingredient.

When we lead people into a personal experience with the Holy Spirit, the people who are not very interested in talking with God have the hardest time, people who are worldly or under the influence of the religious spirit also, but even they can find contact with Him especially after we pray to open their eyes, asking the Holy Spirit to flow, and support their time with the Lord.

To be a good ‘co-pilot’ mostly just be patient and gentle

Leading someone else through communion as a co-pilot is not difficult, but you do need to be gentle and patient. You ask a person, “Ok, can you see Jesus?” . . . and they may say nothing!

You should wait as long as you dare in that silence—sure maybe they fell asleep! Maybe they are not making contact and are just zoning out! But often they are beholding God in a deep moment beyond words that our questioning, which is supposed to help them, only distracts them from. So we can ask them what they see, but we must not interrupt God’s communion with them because we are impatient!

I may ask, “What do you see Jesus doing?” and they say, “He’s walking away.” That usually means He wants them to follow! So instead of letting that be the lasting image, Jesus leaving, I’ve learned to say, “Ask Jesus if He wants you to follow.” Or, “Ask

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Jesus where is He going,” and He’ll usually tell them to follow on His own.

Or I may even just tell the person, “Follow Him! That’s what the Bible says!”

My help as a co-pilot is needed to give a person ideas on how to interact with a vision, to understand what some symbolic items Jesus gives them may mean, but mostly to prompt them to ask Jesus the right questions, to help them have confidence (faith) to approach and interact with the Lord (which is really just to help them open their hearts), to ask Him to explain what He shows them, and when things slow down to suggest a second activity or destination: to explain something, to seek a baptism, to ask for a gift, to show them the Throne of Grace, to visit the Throne of the Father, to explore heaven, to sit in His arms and just be loved ...

The spiritual world the Lord will show you is vast and mysterious, but the key mysteries we should explore however are connected to knowing His person, to realizing our identity in Christ, to removing any barriers of fear or distrust, sin or doubt between us and God.

We also find people can more easily meet and talk with Jesus than the Father since there are more barriers that affect our love of the Father than Jesus. We find asking God the same questions each week is surprising since sometimes He answers the same questions differently as we mature. “God who are you?” He first may say “God.” Then after a week, “I AM LOVE.” And then, “I am the one who made you, your Creator.” And then He may show himself in a way that cannot be described in human language!

This helps us BOND with God and become His friend since it is *knowing* Him in Spirit and in Truth, it is experiencing the reality of God with us, in us, becoming *one* with us. There is no substitute!

Chapter 6

Three Personal Examples

To help make things even more clear, I want to offer three examples of leading others in communion as a way of ministering to them and opening up their hearts to a greater experience of God.

First was a ministry time in a large group of 50 people who were all denominational pastors who did not believe in the power or actual presence of the Holy Spirit being real for us today.

The second was a personal time of ministry for an individual who needed prayer and counseling. She was a believer but found herself in a personal crisis.

The third example is from another group ministry time, this one was a group of mostly ladies who were crying out for more of God, and when they connected with Him, it caused some of them to cry all the more!

Example #1: 50 Denominational Pastors

We went on a family mission trip one year and held a small two-day conference for a group of 50 denominational pastors in a rural area in the Philippines. We had first wanted to teach them some powerful curse breaking revelations since it was something we were discovering at the time, but during preparation the Lord showed us, by letting me personally feel their inner condition, that they didn't need 'power tools,' they needed a deep refreshing. I felt the pain and fatigue they were feeling—frustration, burn out, wanting to quit. So we reworked the seminar to focus on

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those needs and to help lead the pastors into greater intimacy and refreshing in the Holy Spirit.

We did some general teachings on God's love, the rest of faith, and things like that, then invited them to pray for each other in a 'fire tunnel.' I was so blessed because they were all from a very traditional denomination that doctrinally did not believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. But we watched as each of them prayed for each other in the powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit anyway; it was unmistakably the living power of God, but because of their strong denominational doctrinal position, they did not understand what they were actually already walking in!!!

Then we led them into a time of communion but we presented it as 'prayer journaling.' We gave them all small notebooks and pens, and then gave a very brief overview of what we were going to do: talking with the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts, opening the eyes of our hearts, looking for vision, etc.

We didn't make a big deal about doctrinal issues, and played down the theological differences. Speaking in general but biblical terms, we gave several testimonies, and humbly confessed that we're learning so many things from the Lord that our doctrines and theologies keep changing with new insight. We ended the introduction with an open invitation to just try it and see what happens.

We got the people into small groups of four or five, played some soaking music and just gave them 20 minutes to see what the Lord would do. These are some of the things that happened:

In the front row one lady had turned her chair around with the back to me so I could see her writing and she was filling up page after page after page as fast as she could write! I was stunned.

Another man was looking very grumpy, sitting stiffly with his arms folded across his chest. He was well dressed, like a professor maybe, and I was concerned that he was doctrinally stuck, so I knelt down next to him and asked him kindly, "Ummm, do you have any questions, or can I help explain anything to you in more detail?" I was ready to help offer a more in depth scriptural

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foundation for speaking with God in spirit when he replied, “God is talking to me about my prodigal daughter.” He wasn’t having a doctrinal problem, he was overcome with emotions and shocked that God would bring up such a sensitive and personal issue in this setting—but I was relieved! “Oh that’s good!” I said. “Write down what He is telling you so you will have clear prayer direction later. You need to wage your warfare according to the prophecies you receive, so this will help you later to pray. That’s good!” He started to unfold his arms and write down what God had been telling him.

We asked people to share after about 20 minutes and there were some wonderful testimonies of God telling people things like, “I’ve waited for this day for a long time, my child!” and one man even, who grew up as an orphan but was now a pastor heard God tell him that He, God, was his real father, and how much He had always loved him. “You were never alone. You didn’t know it but I was ALWAYS there for you. TELL MY PEOPLE that I am their God and I am always there—they don’t know that! Tell my people!” He was in tears sharing this and I told him how amazing it was that a few minutes ago he didn’t believe God still spoke and now not only was God talking to him but had even asked him to speak to His people on his behalf—that’s a prophetic role! That’s not a small deal!

The funniest was a young pastor in training who was spending time with me outside the seminar, driving me around, hanging out, and I asked him if he heard God speak to him. “Well, you know,” he hesitated, “I have some theological questions about this kind of stuff, so I just want to do some more research and think about it some more.” I was really saddened at first but asked him anyway, “Well, did God speak to you?” He held up his notebook and pointed to it and said, “Yeah, He told me, ‘My son, stop disbelieving Me and open your heart to Me more and trust Me.’” I smiled to myself! I guess he did not see it yet, but God certainly knew what He was dealing with, and I left trusting God to water the seeds sown and lead him to a deeper freedom.

Many people were amazed that God actually spoke to them personally, and despite some of their doctrinal hesitation perhaps

to admit it was possible, we witnessed almost all of these people enjoying personal prophecy from God to themselves, for themselves—in some cases for others. One lady had a vision for each of us: me, my wife, my daughter and the other seminar speaker who came with us! Still others shared testimony after testimony of God's voice giving them comfort and encouragement, ministry direction and personal hope. God also called two of the ladies into the prophetic ministry, to my shock! Why was I shocked? I don't know; it was just so much more successful than I had dared to hope! What a resounding success!

Example #2: Kristine "Tin Tin"

Another good example was from a lady nicknamed 'Tin Tin' in Hong Kong who called me and my wife for counseling, after we prayed with a friend of hers who was deeply touched through having such a time of communion.

Tin Tin was having a very difficult time in her job and personal life and first showed us the advice she got from a "Christian" book on how to solve personal problems which told her to make a goal, focus her energies on that goal, and work hard to achieve that goal. I saw a clear pattern in her behavior. She was already running an entire company almost single-handedly, at 27 years old, and was convinced the problem she had was that she was not working hard enough or was not driven enough! I told her plainly that the book she was reading was a bunch of trash; it was not Christian in any way but humanistic self-reliance. Maybe it was somehow good for people in the corporate world, but it was not in any way "Christian." It never said, when you get to the end of yourself to call on God for help, for one example. It never said, your own abilities or energies or wisdom or determination are inadequate to get you through this life, for another. It never said she needed to rely on someone else, but that she needed to always and only rely on herself!

It was a trap. I told her that the Bible says, 'Woe unto those who trust in man,' and 'man' includes yourself! But that's all I counseled.

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We asked her if she heard God speak to her at all about her problems and she showed us her journal, a diary of her prayers and commitments to the Lord, the things she decided she would do for God to get Him to help her. I saw more evidence of the pattern of self-reliance, works based salvation: God would help her if she sacrificed enough to earn his help first! She was already understanding the point we were making, so we just explained that a prayer journal was less about writing down your prayers and more about writing down what God says in prayer to you! Then asked again if she wanted to ask Jesus to answer her questions directly and she strongly agreed. She was a sincere believer, only she was misled through false 'Christian' teachings!

So then when she was ready we asked her to close her eyes and look at Jesus in her heart.

We prayed to open her eyes and asked the Holy Spirit to flow, and asked her if she could see Him. 'No,' she said. 'Nothing.'

We prayed again and asked her to ask Jesus if she could talk with Him, to look at Him, and to make a picture of Him herself in her heart to get her started.

I asked her again within a few moments if she could see Him and this time she said yes.

"What is he wearing?" I asked her and she described Him as wearing a red belt or sash over a white robe. The first thing I remember that she did was to ask Jesus, "Can I hug you?" And He said yes, and she embraced Him and she began to sob. He said to her, "Are you tired Kristine?"

"Yes, Lord."

And He spoke tenderly to her reassuring her that He would carry her burdens. "I'm so proud of you," He said more than once. It was a father's reassurance she needed.

He then got up and walked away.

"Go follow him," I said and asked, "Is He saying anything?" And she said yes, He was telling her to follow Him. That was good confirmation!

Then He sat down on a bench and she sat next to Him and just started talking to her about her job, her family and even told her

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about her ex-boyfriend. “You should thank Me,” He said. “He was not right for you but I used the pain of your break up to drive you towards Me.”

He explained how close He had always been to her, and brought up some events in her very early childhood, having her relive them in this vision to see where Jesus was during those times of stress, and see what He was doing in those times when she felt alone. She cried several times when He healed her of deep rejection and feelings of abandonment as He walked through her life, showing her that she was NEVER alone. I don’t know how many times Jesus told her He loved her, more than a dozen I think.

And this went on for well more than an hour or two: Him talking to her, as we wrote it all down for her. Then when she was really in a good groove, I opened up her own notebook, put a pen in her own hand, and told her, that instead of telling us what He was saying, to just write it down herself. She paused at first as she juggled thinking about the writing and listening for a few seconds and then started to write . . . and write . . . and write.

We had already missed our ferry more than twice I think and had to catch the next one and so told her, “OK, you keep writing what He says,” and she absentmindedly nodded to me.

“Um, if you need anything, you can call us,” I continued. “You know our number, right?” Another absentminded nod—she was obviously in deep concentration in her conversation with Jesus the Lord, and understandably did not want to be distracted!

But I suddenly felt invisible. “Um, OK, I guess we’re leaving now ... It was nice meeting you ... I guess we’ll talk to you later,” which roused her from her concentration long enough to say, “OK, thanks. Good bye.” And she went back to writing down her communion.

I was torn for a moment. I didn’t expect we’d become obsolete so quickly, but what better thing to lead a person into through our ministry? She’d found the Lord, Himself, and He was giving her his undivided attention. I suddenly saw it in a new perspective: We had succeeded! The Lord had succeeded! This is what we are supposed to do! It was a slam-dunk!

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We've since become very close friends with Tin Tin, and we always laugh about that first encounter! And we also now see how our real goal is to do this very thing, lead people to find God and rely on Him, equipping ourselves out of a job!

She also told us later that that was the happiest day of her life and she was so excited she couldn't sleep until 3 am! She spoke with God, and God spoke back!! The greatest relief she said was to know that God was not waiting until she was perfect to let her approach Him. His arms are already open and you can already, even right now, go see Him and meet Him and talk with Him. You don't need to be perfect.

I think it fair to say that it changed her life.

Example #3: Momma Fely and Riza Cruz

In Hong Kong we run a small Filipino fellowship within our large international church. We've led all of the ladies in our group to experience communion and there have been some wonderful experiences.

I was invited to share at another small Filipino fellowship across town and brought one of our ladies, Fely, with me to testify. Momma Fely is a widowed grandmother but is like my Hong Kong mummy. She keeps me in line when I misbehave and comes over for coffee every week. All the ladies in our small group are close to me, I love each one of them dearly, but I invited Fely to share with me this time since she is so normal and honest.

Learning to have communion was not instant for her, in fact as much as I would tell her how easy it was, she would complain, in Tagalog so I couldn't understand, that no, it was *haaard!* So *haaard!*

Well, finally one day she just decided to give it a real try and God began speaking to her in deep, profound prophetic messages, very symbolic and very meaningful! We were all impressed quite frankly, and I thought she would really encourage the people in the other fellowship because her experience was very normal, and yet she too has developed a real openness to hearing God speak to her.

God really speaks to each of us in our own way, but we ALL can hear God's voice if we just quiet down and listen in our hearts to the Holy Spirit.

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So we went to this other Filipino fellowship in Mong Kok. I let Fely testify and that really encouraged them that they too could hear from God.

After a short time of communion which I talked them through, seeing Jesus, talking with him, asking Him simple questions, we asked people to share their testimonies.

Many of the people only saw a bright light, others saw Jesus but not his face or could only feel his love and could not talk with Him well. But some did give inspiring testimonies and there was one lady, who I will call Riza Cruz, who was very talkative before the service but now was very quiet. I asked Riza to come up and share and she was reluctant at first but agreed and took the microphone.

Standing up in front of the small group she was barely able to speak through her tears as she started to share that she did what we said to do, and she saw Jesus and she asked Him who He was, "He looked at me and said, 'I am . . . I am your . . . your *Father*'" and she broke down in tears weeping!

After a minute she got a hold of herself and continued, "And then I asked Him, 'Who am I?' and He said to me, 'You are ... you are my, my ... my *daughter!*'" She could barely even say that much and broke down weeping even more deeply than before—she was *SOBBING*, in public, at the microphone ... Fely went right up to her and just hugged her, holding her in her arms and Riza just cried and cried on her shoulder.

What happened to Riza? Did she not know God is her Father? Did she not know that she is a daughter of God? I mean those are two main, even fundamental beliefs that EVERYONE who is a Christian knows. These were not new ideas, even to her! So what happened?

When Jesus spoke those things to her, it was not just theology—no, the Living Word actually released her into the personal *experience* of His Love, the light of truth, *knowing it beyond knowledge*.

As He spoke to her spirit it touched her in truth, and *actually* healed her, broke of the yoke of disappointment and isolation, and

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imparted the Life of Christ into her heart which released her to be able to live in a new reality.

These two areas of questions, “Who are you, Jesus,” and “Who am I?” never get fully answered. We can ask Him again and again and the answers get deeper and more real. Also, as I’ve said before, I believe this is the real path to KNOWING God, letting Him reveal Himself to us as He wants to.

What really is the path to maturity is the growth of the New Self, which is a new identity, hidden in Christ, revealed to us through our interaction with Him, allowing us to redefine ourselves based on who HE is and how HE sees us, not the history of our lives on earth, or our own earthly upbringing, not our own doctrine or theology but the reality of Christ in us, the hope of glory.

Physical Travel and More

In finishing this teaching I feel I need to let you know that there are other kinds of interactions with the Lord that go beyond internal vision and include physical travel, or feats of superhuman ability that the Lord has recorded for us in Scripture and that people actually experience in this day and age with increasing frequency.

I heard of a man who traveled to a foreign country as if in a dream but it felt very real and he took a sausage from a roadside stall and woke from the trance back in America ... with the sausage in hand!

I also heard of a man in Russia who pastors three congregations hundreds of miles apart. To get between churches ... he just starts walking and in a few *minutes* crosses what I heard was several hundred miles and arrives to preach at three different places and then walks and again travels hundreds of miles and arrives home in a few minutes . . . each Sunday.

Or people praying for others across the earth and finding themselves suddenly transported to be with them physically for a

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brief time to comfort them or speak with them before returning to their original homes.

Or the common story of Chinese believers who are under such constant persecution, even to this very day, and so they can't tell anyone where or when they will meet next. So how do they gather? Simple! Everyone asks the Holy Spirit when and where to go, and He tells them all privately, and so they all show up at the right place and at the right time and have fellowship and ministry without the police arresting anyone.

Honestly, we need to open our hearts to the reality that is already unfolding around us. These stories of physical travel and miracles are shocking to many people, but on the scale of importance or spiritual significance they still pale in comparison to having the Holy Spirit dwell in your heart and to be allowed to commune and fellowship with God at will. The removing of a physical barrier is shocking and important but the removing of the spiritual barrier of the Fall of Man is a miracle of eternal significance.

What will God do that no one can imagine? Well, we can't even guess, but we do want to be humble and flexible so we don't resist or worse persecute those who are being used by God in these ways.

But again the real miracle is not even visible in the earth realm, it is the union of our spirits with God, becoming One with the Divine; it is God dwelling with man, right here in our very hearts.

John 4:23-24

*"²³Yet a time is coming **and has now come** when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth."*

2 Corinthians 3:18, *"But we all, with unveiled face **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit."* (ASV)

This is what we need to seek as it is the real nature of the Kingdom of God — *Immanuel*, God with us.

Chapter 7

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7.1 KEY VERSES

- **John 4:23-24**

²³ *“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”*

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- **1 John 2:27**, *“As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”*
- **1 John 1:3**, *“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”*
- **2 Corinthians 3:18**, *“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.” (ASV)*

1. SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR COMMUNION:

As Indwelling Becomes Union

- **1 Corinthians 6:19a**, *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? ...”*
- **John 10:27**, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”*
- **Isaiah 30:20-21**,
²⁰“Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. ²¹Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”
- **Jeremiah 31:31-33**,
³¹“The time is coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant I made with

*their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,' declares the LORD. ³³'This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,' declares the LORD. **'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.'**"*

- **Deuteronomy 5:23-26,**

²³"When you heard the voice out of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, all the leading men of your tribes and your elders came to me.

*²⁴"And you said, 'The LORD our God has shown us his glory and his majesty, and we have heard his voice from the fire. **Today we have seen that a man can live even if God speaks with him.***

²⁵"But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us, and we will die if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer.

²⁶"For what mortal man has ever heard the voice of the living God speaking out of fire, as we have, and survived?"

- **Hebrews 12:18-26,**

*¹⁸"You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰because they could not bear what was commanded: 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.'
²¹The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, 'I am trembling with fear.'*

²²"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵*“See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?”*

²⁶*“At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, ‘Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’”*

So that you many have ζωή and have it in a superior quality!

- **John 10:10**, *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*
- **Luke 12:15**, *“Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’”*
- **John 5:21**, *“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.”*
- **John 5:26**, *“For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.”*
- **John 17:3**, *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*
- **2 Corinthians 3:18**, *“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.” (ASV)*
- **John 3:5-6, 15-16, 36**
⁵*“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”*

...

¹⁵“... that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

...

³⁶“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”

- **John 5:37-39**

³⁷“And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, ³⁸nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. ³⁹**You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,** ⁴⁰**yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”**

- **John 6:53-54**

⁵³“Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴**Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”**

- **Hebrews 13:9**, “Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, **which are of no value to those who eat them.”**

- **Ephesians 4:22-24**

²² “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴**and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”**

- **Colossians 3:9-11**

⁹“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰**and have put on the new self,**

which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹*Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*"

- **Revelations 2:17**, *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it."*

2. WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- **John 4:10** *"Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'"*
- **John 4:23-24**
²³*"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."*
- **John 7:37-39**
³⁷*"On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.'* ³⁹**By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.**"
- **John 6:63**, *"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."*

Where does the Holy Spirit dwell on earth?

- **John 14:15-17**
¹⁵“If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”
- **John 14:25-26**
²⁵“All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”
- **John 15:26,** *²⁶“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”*
- **John 16:12-13**
¹²“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”
- **1 John 2:27,** *“As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”*
- **Galatians 1:12,** *“I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”*
- **Ephesians 1:17,** *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”*

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- **1 Corinthians 3:16**, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”

More than a ‘what’ — God’s mind, will and emotions

- **Isaiah 1:14**, “Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts **my soul hates**. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.”
- **Psalms 11:5**, “The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence **his soul hates**.”
- **Matthew 12:18**, “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen; **My beloved in whom my soul is well pleased**: I will put my Spirit upon him, And he shall declare judgment to the Gentiles.” (ASV)
- **Hebrews 10:38**, “But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, **my soul hath no pleasure in him**.” (ASV)
- **Hebrews 4:12**, “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates **even to dividing soul and spirit**, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

3. OUR KOINONIA IS WITH THE FATHER

- **Hebrews 13:9**, “Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.”

- **1 John 1:3-7**

³*"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship [koinonia] with us. **And our fellowship [koinonia] is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.***

⁴*"We write this to make our joy complete.*

⁵*"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship [koinonia] with one another**, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*

Beware of the different kinds of unity

- **Matthew 10:34**, *"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."*
- **Matthew 13:49**, *"This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous."*
- **1 Corinthians 11:18-19**

¹⁸*"In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval."*
- **2 Corinthians 6:14**, *"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"*

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The blessings of Unity of the Spirit

- **Psalm 133**

¹A song of ascents. Of David. How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ²It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. ³It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Mark Virkler's 'Prayer Journaling'

- **Habakkuk 2:1-2**

¹"I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. ²Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it."

- **1 Corinthians 5:3-4**

³"Even though I am not physically present, **I am with you in spirit.** And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. ⁴When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,..."

Don't be a hearer only

- **1 Corinthians 4:3-4**

³"I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.

⁴"My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me."

Seek to be a son like Jesus was

- **1 John 4:8**, *“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*
- **1 John 4:20**, *“If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.”*
- **1 John 3:2**, *“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”*
- **2 Corinthians 3:18**, *“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.” (ASV)*

4. EL ROI, THE GOD OF VISION

Ministering from a vision

- **Romans 12:5**, *“so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”*
- **1 Corinthians 14:26**
“What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.”
- **1 Timothy 1:18-20**
¹⁸“This charge I commit to you, my son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before about you, in order that you might war a good warfare by them, ¹⁹holding faith and a good conscience, which some have put away and made shipwreck as to faith. ²⁰Among these are Hymeneus and

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Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan so that they may learn not to blaspheme.” (MKJV)

Praying from your heavenly throne

- **Ephesians 2:6**, “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,”
- **Jeremiah 23:29**, “‘Is not my word like fire,’ declares the LORD, ‘and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?’”

The God who made Vision

- **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**
¹⁹“Do not put out the Spirit’s fire.
²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt
²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good,
²²reject whatever is harmful.”
- **Hebrews 4:12**, “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates **even to dividing soul and spirit**, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

Distinguishing Real from Fake

- **1 John 2:27**, “As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. **But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit**—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”

Fellowship with the Saints?

- **Matthew 22:31-32**

³¹"But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you,

³²"I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

- **Ecclesiastes 1:18**, "For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief."

- **Hebrews 12:18-24**

¹⁸"You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰because they could not bear what was commanded: 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.'
²¹The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, 'I am trembling with fear.'

²²"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, **to the spirits of righteous men made perfect**, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."

- **Acts 12:13-16**

¹³"Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. ¹⁴When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, 'Peter is at the door!'

¹⁵"'You're out of your mind,' they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, 'It must be his angel.'

¹⁶"But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished."

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Unmasking a fake

- **1 John 4:1-3**

¹“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

²“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”

Anyway, seek the Lord, not just spiritual ‘experiences’

- **Ephesians 3:16-19**

¹⁶“I pray that out of his glorious riches **he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,** ¹⁷**so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.** And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸**may have power, together with all the Lord’s people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,** ¹⁹**and to know this love that surpasses knowledge**—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

5. MINISTRY THROUGH COMMUNION: BEING SOMEONE’S ‘COMMUNION CO-PILOT’

Ask Jesus some basic but important questions: Fifth, expect the Lord to minister inner healing

- **Hebrews 12:15**, “See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.”

But the key verses for this entire teaching again are:

John 4:23-24, ²³*“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”*

1 John 2:27, *“As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.”*

1 John 1:3, *“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”*

2 Corinthians 3:18, *“But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.” (ASV)*

7.2 REVELATION IN ACTION

- Pray for spiritual gifts, eagerly desiring them (1 Corinthians 14:1) but embrace the companionship of the Holy Spirit and walk in the Kingdom beyond the realm of gifting.
- Being taught by the Holy Spirit is the ONLY real way to become personally acquainted with the Lord. We should spend time in communion with the Lord as much as we can.
- Mark Virkler really helped us understand how to approach God openly and consistently. I want to give credit where it is due and I am very thankful for Mark's ministry, and encourage you to visit his site and learn what you can from his materials, some of which are free, at www.cwgministries.org.
- Learning to enjoy spiritual communion will change your life. It is good to do this often and to do it in groups, to teach people and to release the experience of real spiritual intimacy into your community, or as a missionary into other communities.
- After you feel comfortable having communion with God, learn to lead someone else into communion as a co-pilot as a way to open their eyes to the nearness of the Lord and the wider dimensions of the Spirit of God. Do this for ministry to people who need inner healing and have deep questions of faith and need reassurance that God loves them and knows they are distressed— but also do it as a means to continue to grow into spiritual maturity.

7.3 COMMUNION CO-PILOT FLIGHT MANUAL

- **Preflight Check**

Before you start to commune with the Holy Spirit, check a few things: Where are you? What is your state of mind? Who are you with? Be wise and cautious, especially at first, and it is more productive to go to a nice church, or to where you often sit to pray and read the Bible, or to pray with a partner who you trust in the Lord. It is not good to go to a busy mall, or a public place, or to be hanging out with the wrong crowd since the spiritual environment may affect your experience, especially when you are just learning.

- **Step one: Be at PEACE ... in the HOLY SPIRIT.**

You may sit down and pray a little, sing a song, play some soothing Christian music, preferably instrumental music. Don't talk much and don't sing much—it can actually distract you from hearing God when you speak too much or are too active. God knows what you are going to say before you say it, so trust Him. Even if you need to pour out your heart, or ask Him some important questions, that's fine, but then settle down to listen!

Ask the Lord to meet you, to talk with you; ask Him to flow to and through your heart so you can talk with Him. It helps to pray this, asking Him to flow, asking his presence to come. I often ask Him two or three times before I start to sense the flow of the Spirit like I do when I'm in a time of good, heartfelt worship.

- **Step Two: Open the eyes of our hearts, fix them on Jesus.**

We have spiritual eyes and ears and we need to have them opened to be able to 'behold' Him and 'talk' with God in spirit. We need to focus and concentrate and so "fix the eyes of our hearts on Jesus" by looking at Him; it helps to make a picture of Him in your heart.

As soon as you see Him, try to describe what you are seeing; this helps you to focus and to draw you into a deeper time beyond distractions. Much of what God says is discerned more than concretely 'seen' or audibly 'heard'; it is usually very unlike having a conversation with a human on the telephone.

- **Step Three: Interact with the image you see in your heart.** Talk with Jesus, hold his hand, give him your cares, receive his heart, his sword, his keys, his gifts—and notice that this is FULLY INTERACTIVE—it is not a movie being played back to you as a dream or packaged prophetic message is—this is active communion not passive prophecy. Once you have tested what you are seeing and know it is the Lord by feeling the familiar presence of the Holy Spirit or by inner witness in your heart, then settle down and relax, open your heart to all the Lord wants to tell you and show you, impart to you and give you. You can speak to Jesus, ask Him questions, and respond to what He shows you. You can ask Him to show you something, take you someplace, and tell you personal, intimate things—even about other people!

- **Step Four: Ask Jesus to interpret what He shows you.**

When the Lord shows you images and pictures, it is a good idea at that very moment to ask Him what He is showing you, what it means, and what you are supposed to do about it.

Don't be passive and don't assume—you may feel comfortable guessing the meaning of some common symbols but you can never really guess the Lord's mind! Just when you think you've got Him all figured out, He throws you a curve. He may show you a picture of something (such as an elevator) and may not even explain what it means until you ask Him, "What does this mean, Lord?"

"I am going to elevate you!" Yes God makes puns and word plays just like He did with Jeremiah! So corny sometimes!

And once you know what something means, it is then a good idea to ask Him what you should do about it! He may say, "Nothing, just so you know," Or, "Wait for the right time." Or He may give you specific proactive instructions that if you don't follow *immediately* you'll miss his will or a certain blessing.

Remember the story with Elisha and the arrows? It is not *always* God's will that we wait or sit passively by.

2 Kings 13:18-19,

¹⁸Then he said, "Take the arrows," and the king took them. Elisha told him, "Strike the ground." He struck it three times and stopped. ¹⁹The man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you

would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times."

But before you place any real importance or put any real faith into a word or revelation you need to MAKE SURE it is from God! Not just the word, but the right interpretation of it. TEST it and be quick to throw it away or modify your understanding of it if you think it is tainted or suspect or misinterpreted in some way. Just because you have a Bible doesn't mean Satan won't try to fool you with it. Just because you are hearing God speak to you deeper does not mean Satan will stop trying to mess you up, even by messing with your understanding of what God has shown you—keep your wits about you, wear the full armor, and wage the good spiritual fight every day!

- **Step Five: Keep a good written record.**

The Holy Spirit, who is the one who tells you all these things to start with, will also bring them back to mind when it is time for something to come to pass, so you don't need to worry about remembering or writing *everything* down, but it is still good advice to keep a fairly reliable and organized written record for yourself, especially if God gives you a message to share with other people. You'll need to be clear and exact to be a faithful messenger.

As you can see from reading this book, I have a fairly good written record of what God has spoken to me—in fact my record goes back nearly 20 years! This is important because often what God tells you makes little sense at first. He may tell you more later, He may build or expand on it, or you may come to a sudden understanding of it but may have forgotten the details of the original revelation months ago if it was not recorded well.

Some of the words He gave me I thought would come to pass in six months—one is still pending 12 years on. I re-read these to keep my faith alive, and to help me understand my walk as it progresses. It is amazing but you really have no way of knowing the future importance of anything He tells you until it begins to come to pass months or years later, or sometimes until it is already over. So it is best to write it all down.

It is also better to rely on a written record from a month ago than your own memory! This is especially true when God starts

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telling you many things, and is very helpful when you are in communion since God is speaking to your spirit and sometimes your carnal mind, the organ of flesh, has a hard time remembering what just happened in the spirit five minutes ago!

Also if what the Lord shows you is really wonderful you'll want to share it with other friends which builds up other people's faith, and is an important way God ministers to all of us, by other people's personal testimonies and experiences with the Lord.

Having a written record makes it easier to share, especially on the internet or by e-mail! But do be mindful of people who are not spiritually strong enough to walk with you in the deeper things of the Lord. Some 'pearls' need to be treated with special discretion.

7.4 SHORT MINISTRY CHECKLIST

There is NO formula or set way to interact with the Holy Spirit! But nevertheless how we have learned to lead people into communion is to just give simple, brief guidance— suggestions more than instructions— and be patient and gentle. Here is a brief summary of steps we often use:

To help the person get ready, ask them:

1. **What is the Holy Spirit**, simply explaining He is God's mind will and emotions, personality or character. And,
2. **Where is He?** Simply agreeing that He is in their hearts in a literal sense. Then,
3. **That He is like a river and needs to flow. But also,**
4. **That our hearts must be open to talk with and 'behold' Him.**

Then we start by:

5. **Quieting down in a prayerful peace.** And,
6. **Asking God to open the eyes of their hearts so we can see Him.** And,
7. **Inviting the Holy Spirit**, asking Him to come and to flow. Then,
8. To **'fix their eyes on Jesus'** and search for Him until they can localize Him in vision in their hearts, and then to start to record or share what they see.

Once people tune into the Holy Spirit, let them start by describing what they see, and if they can see the Lord to describe what Jesus is wearing or doing. This may define the nature and direction of the whole ministry encounter, and we should be sensitive to follow His lead wherever it takes you.

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But if people have no specific direction, or at least to lay a deeper foundation for later interaction, we like to then lead people to engage the Lord by asking some simple but meaningful questions that touch on their personal relationship with Him.

First, we like to ask Jesus: “Jesus, who are you?”

Second, we like to ask Jesus, “Jesus, who am I?”

Third, we like to ask Jesus, “Jesus, do you really love me?”

(Have the tissues nearby!)

Fourth, we should respond to prophecy and vision.

Fifth, we expect the Lord to minister inner healing, and will follow Him to lead people to wholeness, deep in their hearts.

Sixth, we also ask the Lord to teach us.

Seventh, we want to give people the chance to ask Him about their own pressing personal issues, anxieties and problems.

Eighth, we then want to give Jesus the floor!

7.5 THINGS TO DO IN THE SPIRIT

These are things you may want to minister or seek to experience when you are talking with the Lord in Communion. Some are more important, such as seeking to grow in your personal bonding with the Lord and understanding of your new self as God's child. But others are just fun and exciting.

- Visit Jesus: ask Him, "Who are you?" "Who am I?" "Do you love me?" **Ask Him what you should ask Him!**

- **Interact with the vision He shows you.** What you are witnessing is in spirit and it is truth.

Especially interact with Jesus. Sit next to him and then hold his hand. How does it feel? Reach up and touch his cheek. Look into his face; what is his expression? He may be smiling; He may share his grief with you over the tragedy of man's fall. Lay in his lap and let Him hold you like a baby or a little lamb. Look deeply into His eyes. If you can't see his eyes at first, ask Him why? Keep looking, keep seeking. What is in his eyes? Hug him.

- **God will be our teacher if we let Him** and I find in a group setting it's a fun way to learn as well. We'll have everyone go to the Lord in spirit and ask Him to explain a verse or an idea or our callings or whatever. This is also a nice way to get everyone sharing in a group. Or we ask everyone to get a word for the person next to them, or for someone we are ministering to, etc.

- **Take your burdens in your hands and offer it to Jesus** asking him, "Will you take my burdens?"

Receive his gifts and blessings. Hold out your hands and ask Him, "Will you give me a gift?" Whatever He gives you, take it into your heart.

- **Go to the heavenly seat of authority Jesus has given you,** sit on that throne and look out over your inheritance. Ask Jesus for the tools he has for you: keys, swords, scrolls, scepters, and

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whatever else He may give you to bring heavenly order to your life.

- **Ask Him to bring you to the Father**, or just go directly. You may see Him as a grandfatherly figure on the Throne and probably will get to sit in His lap and talk with Him.

- **Visit God at the waterfall of His Spirit**, where deep calls to deep. Read the psalms and look for other things to discover.

Ask God to feed you, and eat what He gives you. It may be fruit, chocolate, meat, wine, bread and any number of cultural, ethnic or heavenly dishes!

- **Visit paradise.** Paradise is probably larger than the known universe. It's BIG and full of unexpected things.

Visit the Heavenly City, the City of New Jerusalem, your new home by birthright and inheritance. It is 1,500 square miles wide, but it is CUBIC with 400,000 tiers or levels. There are buildings and scenes, gardens and villages that are numerous and wonderful beyond description. Play with angels, meet saints, your guardian angel may teach you, but ask Jesus to teach you as well, since He always has time for you!!!

- **Go see your heavenly mansion.** Go meet some of the other saints of old, or even recent ones! Ask the Lord to show you around to see things you've always heard about or others that you've never imagined!

- **Travel the earth in spirit.** Visit your family, or the places you pray for, or missionaries you support, or foreign countries in turmoil. Visit long lost friends you have lost track of! Distance is of no importance really, neither is time, the past or the future! You can see the past, the future, outer space, creation, the end times, whatever you desire within the Lord's personal will at that time for you to see. Some things He may not let you see, but there are so many thousands of things He will. Your inheritance is vast.

7.6 TROUBLESHOOTING SUMMARY

If people are having a hard time seeing the Lord, first check some of the obvious things. ABOVE ALL don't worry or panic yourself; just relax and let the Spirit flow.

- Give them a minute or two to relax, and then try again. Sometimes they just need to figure out how to concentrate and look with their spiritual eyes. Be calm and don't assume if it takes a little longer than normal that it's over. Relax, pray and press in.
- Worship first a little more to help the Spirit to flow and people to open their hearts.
- Are they nervous and closed up? They need to be at peace, and you can help them by rebuking fear, anxiety and distractions, and releasing the Lord's presence.
- Are they indifferent? Ask them if they really want to talk to the Lord, and start to cry out! Being lukewarm is no good!
- Rebuke the religious spirit, pride, and anything else you feel is blocking them. Rebuke satan in any form and ask the Lord to release his ministering angels to you.
- Are they saved? Lead them through a basic salvation prayer.
- Pray to release the forgiveness of Christ's blood over them. Ask for forgiveness yourself, maybe something else is quenching the Spirit. Repent and seek.
- You may just want to pray for them in the 'hot seat,' laying hands on them and seeking the Lord for insight. They may need inner healing, or to break a curse or other bondage. Be gentle but persistent.
- But all that you normally need to do is just wait a little. Pray to open their spiritual eyes, to open their hearts to talk with the Lord, to ask the Holy Spirit to flow, and maybe even to ask for angels to come and help. Invite the Lord, He'll sort it all out soon enough.

Chapter 8

Overview of the book

FOUNDATIONS of the KINGDOM

Understanding the Keys to the Kingdom

The teaching I've been sharing in this book is actually the 9th chapter in a larger work that I am calling *Foundations of the Kingdom*, in which I want to share the key revelations the Lord has been teaching me about the keys to entering Kingdom. *Communion* is a universally important revelation, by which I mean a revelation that is for EVERYONE to enjoy. Not all believers are called to minister or teach or administer the advancement of the Kingdom, so there are some keys that are more suited to those in ministry or leadership, but everyone is called to a closer walk with the Lord, regardless of what their role in the Body is. So I am sharing this book, *Communion*, separately, so more people can be touched by its revelation.

But for those who do want to minister and to learn how better to advance the Kingdom than is currently being done in most man-made organizations, *Foundations* should prove to be a valuable resource.

Jesus will teach you everything you need to know yourself directly. But sometimes it takes a lot of strength, time and energy to search out the deeper secrets of the Lord's Kingdom's ministry, and not everyone is called to do that. I have been given this key of

understanding and so I can share more clearly what many people are already beginning to grasp but may lack the words to be able to express. So this larger book, *Foundations*, can serve as a sounding board to you, to help clarify things you may already be hearing Jesus teach you.

In the end, these mysteries will become widely known among the mature, and at that point we will lose some of our uniqueness as more and more 'ordinary' people discover the sacred secrets of Christ—may that day come soon!—but for now we are called to be among the forerunners sharing this revelation and to train people to walk in these deeper things, even if it later becomes commonly held spiritual revelation across the whole body of the Wise bride.

So I will tell you the basic overview of this book, *Foundations*, so in case you can't buy it, or can't find it elsewhere, you will still know the main ideas I want to share with you that the Lord has been teaching me. It is still a work in progress, and I may still make a few changes later, but the main body of revelation is fairly settled and it won't be that different from what I am sharing here, which is largely an excerpt directly from that book. I hope it blesses you.

But I want to start by sharing something that the Lord told me that will probably make you feel uneasy, but it establishes an important framework for this book.

What He said is that **the way most of us currently minister in church will NEVER produce His Kingdom.**

NEVER!

I later heard Him say that **man's ways WILL NOT produce God's blessings**, and that is a large part of the problem. We try to get His results from doing things in our ways, in our wisdom, in our strengths and are somehow surprised that it won't work!

The problems are often quite obvious yet they go to the very root of what we think Christianity is, what we think God is asking us to do to follow it, and how we think we should teach and minister to spread it.

For example, we see entire communities of believers mobilized to preach an incomplete gospel message that produces adherents to doctrines, but not real disciples of Messiah.

Also, the diverse ministries the Lord ordained to function in the Body to release the grace of God in its various forms are largely absent—and so likewise the fruit of those ministries is also largely absent. But where they do exist they are either idolized, put on pedestals as idols in the hands of superstars, even treated as entertaining novelties, usually to create an income ... or otherwise they are disregarded, often because they are not seen as having any financial value, and relegated to those with fringe interests. These two extremes of neglect and abuse of God's manifested presence prevents these 'gifts' from ever becoming serious, widespread, mainstream blessings ministered by and for common believers.

We see that most ministers are plainly focused primarily on raising money, building organizations and making buildings made with bricks and mortar—without paying more than lip service to the building up of the authentic temple of God, which is made up of living stones—**people**—who remain broken down and scattered and in obvious need of real spiritual restoration that they may NEVER FIND within the modern church.

These living stones don't get the ministry they need because either the people have no real monetary value to men's organizations, so their growth and maturity is not a priority—or because hired shepherds have no desire, power, ability or real idea how to actually help them. Across the world, the sheep are scattered, wounded, neglected and so they fall prey to the wolves, bears and lions of the world, who often operate within the churches.

We think Christianity is a way for people to become wealthy. This is just not so.

1 Timothy 6:5b,

“... men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.”

We see so many “leaders” within the Church behaving EXACTLY like the worldly people Christ condemned for their abusive, deceptive, selfish, carnal, controlling, domineering

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leadership. He said not once or twice but about nine times in the Gospels NOT TO BEHAVE LIKE THIS if you are a leader. True leaders *actually* serve, but false leaders only say they do, and they are sure to say it *all the time!* Such people think as long as they “preach the true gospel” they can run their churches any way they want, with any kind of manipulation or control, domineering or hierarchical system, not understanding that their choice of leadership style IS ALSO A PART OF THE GOSPEL they are called to preach and demonstrate!

Concerning our commission, we have by and large reinvented the Gospel as an entertainment program, one which produces no real divine change in people’s lives, no empowerment to actually live Christ-like lives in practical circumstances, but instead offers only temporary, circumstantial happiness in place of godly joy, a promise of earthly wealth instead of being rich towards God, and a powerless sermon series on CD, **instead of actually ministering the real healing, real emotional restoration, real spiritual deliverance, actual breaking of vices, actual releasing of real revelation, bringing people into a real personal experience of God in spirit and in truth, and then actually equipping the common saints to carry on the same work of transforming other people into real disciples**—all of which was so clearly the hallmark of Jesus’ ministry and is plainly the legacy of the early believers in Christ.

If we continued in the same vein and then acted and built on this sandy foundation we would simply find ourselves preaching a different gospel, which would produce a different sort of community, a different religion, and certainly a different “kingdom” —not the Kingdom of God— which only the REAL work of the REAL Holy Spirit can actually produce.

What we have built in men’s hearts is a house of STRAW on a foundation of SAND which will not survive the purifying fire of the Lord’s judgment or the overwhelming upheaval of his promised shaking. So much of our ‘Christian labors’ have been totally done in vain!

Psalm 127:1

“Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.”

And while this is a sobering reality—that what we have been building and calling the house of the Lord has largely been built in vain—it is simultaneously remarkable that it is so surprising to us! Do we really believe that we can extend the Lord’s Kingdom in a way contrary to how the Lord plainly taught and demonstrated that it needs to be done?

Do we really think we can improve on the way Jesus and the Apostles worked with the Holy Spirit to advance the Kingdom?

Maybe we do, but we would simply be wrong.

Again this is what Jesus told me: **the way most of us are currently ministering in church will NEVER produce His Kingdom.**

After so many centuries of teaching, preaching and spreading the Gospel, we are no more able to produce the actual manifestation of the Kingdom in our midst than the Pharisees were so long ago—but it is certainly not for lack of trying!

We’ve tried so many, many things over the years and have again and again come to a spiritual dead end. **We’ve failed whenever we’ve tried to achieve God’s results with Man’s ways. All our work has been to no avail—no eternal rewards, no eternal results for any of it because as I already shared that He told to me: “Man’s ways will not produce God’s blessings.”**

It’s very frustrating to be able to read about this heavenly Kingdom, but have no idea how to authentically extend it on earth. But this Gospel is not a matter of talk, and cannot be merely spread “doctrinally.” **God’s ways are higher than our ways, and His Kingdom is spread by the demonstration of his Spirit and power—the released presence of His Spirit—the Kingdom IS the presence of His Spirit ...** our ways simply cannot produce His results.

What futility so much of our service in the name of God has been! Vanity of vanities!

But there is hope!

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In truth there is a way this Kingdom stuff will actually work, and we'll find it just as soon as we find Him as our teacher, sup with Him, learn from Him, and become enabled by Him to yield all of our hearts to Him in his service in spreading His Kingdom!

There IS hope— hallelujah!— there IS a way this will work and we can walk in the power and authority of the Kingdom on earth. And all we have to do is find the keys.

It is HIS WILL to give us the Kingdom ... and so it also HIS WILL to give us its Keys

The vastness of the Kingdom, the power and the glory, is opened up to us on earth through little, seemingly insignificant keys.

How can we walk in the power and authority of the Kingdom if we can't find the keys? Simple . . . we can't!

So one of the first steps in unlocking the Kingdom is simply finding these keys.

These keys are all very simple, but they are still hidden to normal men since they are *spiritual* and so unattractive even invisible to ordinary men. To natural men they make no sense, they are counterproductive, and in fact they seem childish, superstitious even foolish and dangerous to most educated adults. But they work. And ONLY they will work to unlock the Lord's heart.

Take for example the passage of Luke 12 where Jesus was teaching about how we are not to worry about our financial security or about the normal things of this life that we need, such as food and clothes:

³⁰“For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³²Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

This is already two or three important ideas, or keys, which unlock the mystery of the Kingdom.

One is simply to trust God, trust his goodness and that he has a good plan for you.

Another is the matter of the focus or desire of our hearts.

And another is the plain fact that the Kingdom is already being given to us. We don't need to beg or bribe Him to give it to us—we just really need to figure out how to receive it.

So the availability of this Kingdom to us did not start with us looking for a way to make a solution to our earthly problems. It did not begin in our discovery of a giant rich but stingy old man high up in the sky who needs to be manipulated or coerced to cough up some of his money!

No way! It started with HIM foreseeing our needs and making ample provision for them *long before we were even born!*

He WANTS to provide for our needs and has actually already done so within our inheritance, within His Kingdom—it's the part of the Kingdom set aside for our individual needs *personally*—and all this was done before we even learned how to say, "Abba!"

This is why it is HIS WILL to give us this Kingdom, and also HIS WILL to give us the keys we need to open it and receive the benefits of it.

Concerning this inheritance, **I've actually seen it in the spiritual realm** and for sure all our earthly needs, desires and even things just for our enjoyment and wonder have already been set aside for us—**set aside in our own personal names!** And so when we understand this about God, that He already has a good plan, that His WILL is to provide for us well, not just financially, but artistically, intellectually, regarding our knowledge of Him, walking in spiritual gifts, having rich and rewarding human relationships and exciting and rewarding work in His service ... well, we soon develop real confidence—faith, that is—and become bold to pray, '... May your will be done!'

You see, we are already invited to enter the Kingdom and we will if but our hearts are right—the Holy Spirit was just explaining to one of the ladies in a fellowship we are a part of that, **"If the Lord is the center of our interest, our whole lives will be in focus."**

So ultimately we see that the greatest keys are the most simple ones: love, humility, repentance ... not simply reading the Bible,

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but reading the Bible and DOING what it says is what will lead us to our Father's lap and into the garden of the Knowledge of His Love.

It is not the comfortable 'beliefs' of the lukewarm, but the fiery hot 'faith,' a dangerous faith, a costly faith, that leads people out of the mire of worthless religion.

Another problem is that 'talking' does not produce the Kingdom in people's hearts. Talk alone does not impart power or ability to follow the Bible's ways—the Kingdom is not a matter of talk, but of empowerment, or endowing people with spiritual abilities that only can be done by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. DOING most of the Bible's *commandments* is humanly impossible—but possible and even quite easy with God's empowering grace at work within us (which is the subject of an entire chapter of this book!!).

And I am sure we could add to this list *ad nauseam*, to the point of becoming sick, but I think we can all see the point.

And so it was along these lines, in the Autumn of 2007, that the Lord spoke to me and gave me the following prophetic word to share. This may not sound very polished, but I tend not to edit my own prophecy much beyond fixing obvious grammatical and stylistic errors.

Some of the points He raised need to be understood in context, such as the Lord saying He is the source of some of our emotions, such as *grief*, by which He simply meant the grieving over sin and injustice, and not the carnal grief of hopelessness and despair. So please read this word carefully and patiently. I don't want you to get hung up on something that is actually quite clear, but may not have been expressed very well by me. My English is woefully inadequate to express some of the spiritual meanings of some of the things the Lord has shared. I hear the Spirit say a 'word' that I often have a hard time putting into English and may want to write two or three very different words to try and convey His real meaning. I don't like to 'edit' the Lord too much if I can help it, so I try my best to leave personal prophecies in their original form as much as possible, even if they sound a little rough around the edges. My wife is the opposite and will edit and re-edit a prophecy

the Lord gives her, doing so in the flow of the Holy Spirit in two-way communication—communion—which she walks in much easier than I do sometimes. When I operate in the gift of prophecy a message often comes to me in a strong and steady flow and I am but a scribe, or a secretary. When it comes through *communion* it may be more detailed and nuanced, but be easier to adjust and edit since we can spend more time discussing it with the Lord and clarifying things, even months after the initial download.

But it does not really matter *how* we get a message from the Lord, as long as we hear the whole message and deliver it to the right audience as instructed. I see serving as a prophet as being more about the task of delivering a certain message to a certain audience than the mode of transmission of the message. So even I find that sometimes my prophecies are less polished than other people's, but the Spirit of the Lord nevertheless has something that He wants me to share with you, and that is good enough for me to be willing to share it.

So let's read this interesting and provocative message from the Lord, in which He first talks about the goal of achieving generational unity, and then about the Kingdom and its keys:

Thus saith the Lord,

"It's time to stop indulging in the sins of the forefathers, but instead to reprove them. Unity of generations is brought about by repentance of sin and sacrificing walking in the ways and sins of the flesh. Generational unity—knitting generations together—is a blessing of the Lord's Spirit, ministered upon the earth through Elijah's blessing. Didn't I say that I came to put father against son, and son against father? But judge and test what this means. Does it not refer to the dividing of light and darkness? How can two walk together unless they agree? Do you understand what I am showing you, my children? Generational unity only comes about through the Spirit of Unity, which is the Spirit of Grace, and Love—through your repentance out of the works of the flesh you are translated into my glorious light. You cannot mend the generations with your own social initiatives; although I see your heart—I see you understand the need, but even this understanding

is birthed out of My Spirit. Won't you let go all of the way, and give into My Spirit so that my power can both illuminate and knit your souls together as My Kingdom among you is meant to manifest. How little you know about My Kingdom but it is for the Nations as well as the Sons. It is for the Nations THROUGH the Sons. How little you know my heart is to bless the Nations, not curse them. What can stay my hand if I decide to destroy [the Nations]? Do you think the enemy of your souls can stay my hand in any measure? It would be foolish to think that because it is simply untrue.

"My people, oh my people! Come sup with me and I will tell you all the Keys of the Kingdom. Not just a few ... all of them! For they are given to you; they are within your inheritance. How can you walk in the power and authority of My Kingdom if you can't find the keys? It is my pleasure to give you My Kingdom; it is MY WILL for you to partake of My Kingdom.... Why then would you think it is not my will to give you these keys? Think about the illogical confusion in the minds of the religious ones who preach the Kingdom but preach that the keys have been lost, hidden, and are no longer yours. Does that make any sense? If I have done so much to prove my love to you, why do you think I would act like an unloving authoritative man? Is that the picture you have of Me as my Son hung on the Cross? Do you understand the Gospel at all?? Come back to the simple picture of my Son willingly being obedient to my plan, hanging on a tree to be a curse for you, to reunite you with Me. You've been lost so long you've forgotten your rightful place as an Heir of God. Don't despise the True Riches of the Kingdom that I've made abundantly available to you, my heirs. Don't confuse them with carnal, earthly riches either, as many do to their embarrassment. Come, I say, come let us reason together, for I will show you the way."

Then An Epiphany

It was soon after getting this word that the Lord started to reveal these very keys to us but for many months we didn't know that was what He was doing. The Lord had just been teaching us certain scriptures and concepts, verse by verse, sometimes line by line, which we initially thought were separate, independent revelations since He didn't spell out his plan or give us a road map as He started this process. But then one day we suddenly saw with clarity in a moment of epiphany that all these things were interrelated and formed the very foundation of the Kingdom of God now emerging on earth as we leave the old wineskins of religion and man's ways behind.

Again, Hallelujah!

What is also interesting is that the basic verses that lay this foundation are simple and well known, although what they actually mean has been somewhat of a hidden mystery and so we have needed divine revelation to understand them correctly and see how they fit together.

Thankfully the Spirit of God, which we have been given, reveals these mysteries to us, so that we may know with certainty what has been freely given to us by the Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:10-12!

¹⁰but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

But what I suggest you do as you read this book is to take things back to the Lord in prayer, item by item if you want to, and ask Him to clarify, confirm or deny them to you, even line by line. As a genuine seeker of truth, I greatly appreciate feedback from other believers, not only to confirm but to clarify, expand and correct what we believe the Lord is showing us.

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But above all, I want this book to be a challenge to you not to lower your theology to look more like your mundane existence, but to confront your ordinary life and challenge it to start to look more like the plumb line of practical spiritual reality—the Bible—especially the way the early community of believers lived as is plainly evident in the New Testament, for this is the calling and destiny of our end time generation, specifically speaking, it is for you and I.

Foundations, Key Verses and Revelations

The two layers I will not cover in this book are the ones that I think are already being done quite diligently, namely, teaching people to believe the Bible, and giving them knowledge of salvation through the repentance of their sins. I'll touch a little on the gospel of salvation to contrast it with the gospel of the Kingdom in chapter 1, but otherwise I will not talk about these areas.

And notwithstanding new revelations that God will certainly continue to pour out, what I now see as the more full foundation of the Kingdom of God and administration, or the activity of spreading it, is in these main concepts and verses:

The Gospel of Salvation (as John the Baptist preached) is the Narrow Door, but not the whole gospel of the Kingdom.

(1) **John the Baptist preached the gospel of repentance unto salvation. Repentance is a kind of 'narrow door' to entering the Kingdom. While it does give people salvation if they should die, it is meant to prepare people to 'see' and 'hear' the 'greater' message of the Kingdom of God that Jesus demonstrated in miracles, signs and wonders.** Luke 3:3-6, 7:28-30, 16:16. John the Baptist prepared the people by preaching repentance—just repentance—just like the prophets of old. But without receiving John's message and so becoming one of the 'repentant,' peoples' hearts will reject the 'greater' message of the Kingdom that Messiah brings, and so they won't be able to enter it on earth—even though they are 'saved' and will likely go to heaven

when they die in the flesh on earth, they will not be able to enjoy the provision of heaven on earth that Jesus walked in and demonstrated and said his followers would continue to enjoy: casting out demons, healing the sick, raising the dead, etc. These 'greater' things of the Kingdom are not opened up to us merely by preaching the message of John the Baptist, "Repent and be saved!"

Most Christians are still in this place, still struggling with the ministry of repentance unto salvation that John preached, even calling it the 'full gospel' — still others see it as an end unto itself, and so by far most Christians have not yet perceived or entered into the greater gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus preached and demonstrated. Thankfully because of the foundational layers of preaching repentance unto salvation and teaching people the Bible, many, many believers are in the right position to now 'hear' the greater message of the Kingdom, and like I said, they most are likely to still have eternal salvation should they die before they find the Kingdom on earth. It is alright I think to combine the messages of 'repentance unto salvation' and the kingdom of God on earth if they are understood, but we want to be very clear in seeing that the stage of repentance is only a prelude, only a narrow doorway leading people into a much greater experience of God here on earth.

(2) **Isaiah 61, is the model of our new life in Christ.** This is the scriptural picture of the 'greater' gospel of the Kingdom Jesus preached and it is explained in some depth in this well know, but greatly misunderstood passage. Isaiah 61 begins, "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me . . . to preach the gospel to the poor (meaning to the repentant, those who listened to John basically)" **Jesus explained this passage to me practically line by line. Men commonly teach that this verse is somehow only to be fulfilled when we reach heaven or at least the millennial reign, a clear contradiction to Jesus' own words.** In fact this verse describes the nature of the restoration the *experience* of the 'gospel' or 'good news' brings, describing the key ministries that advance the Kingdom in people's hearts: inner healing, bondage / curse breaking, and spiritual enlightenment (meaning the perceiving of God and the personal discovery of His Being in a relational sense). After first describing seven aspects of restoration this verse then

goes on to explain what happens to each person who receives the full *experience* of this gospel—they mature and become transformed into ministers of Christ as they walk in the newness of divine life on earth. They become vessels through which the ministry of Christ can be continued—I think it is clear in this passage that **ALL believers have this upward calling to be priests and ministers offered to them, not just a few ‘superstar’ ministers.**

These two pillars—first distinguishing the gospel of repentance unto salvation from the greater gospel of the Kingdom, and second understanding the restoration the experience of the gospel of the Kingdom brings—already change most of what we do and preach and live for in church in the name and practice of Christianity . . . but there is much more, especially as we look at how the Kingdom is administered or advanced through our own personal ministries.

The Administration of the Gospel of the Kingdom

(3) The Kingdom is administered or advanced by demonstrating the Spirit and Power. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 1 Corinthians 4:20. These passages explain the importance of NOT ministering in ‘word’ only, focusing on talking about doctrines, theologies and the *theories* of God, but instead focusing on a *demonstration* of God’s reality in both Spirit and power; this is so peoples’ faith will not rest in ‘words’ but instead in the *experience* of the reality and power of God. Many people only have a foundation of ‘word’ knowledge of the Bible, which causes them to become mired in theological discussions, mostly to try to distinguish personal or denominational opinions and beliefs from other believers, and so they work to expand their denominations, which unfortunately does not expand the Kingdom in people’s hearts—the Kingdom is not a matter of talk, but of power.

(4) We do teach, but we ought to teach from personal revelation as much as possible—1 Corinthians 2:6-16 explains that when we do talk, teach and preach, we need to focus on teaching those things that the Spirit has personally taught us of God’s sacred mysteries—**we basically need to teach from revelation.** This is an

imperative because we must NOT teach of man's earthly wisdom or our own opinions claiming it is Divine wisdom as most do, for all such earthly things will not endure but instead will pollute and contaminate whatever we build in the name of God—meaning the people's lives, their beliefs, their walk with God! For this is what we are ultimately building—people!—whether we know it or not! Teachers and preachers must be very diligent to distinguish opinion, popular trends, and man's traditions from the authentic revelation of Truth from the Holy Spirit—this is why it is therefore so important that we teach as much as possible from revealed wisdom from the Lord—showing the real importance of being able to consciously learn from God's Spirit.

(5) **Each individual member of the Body has a role to play** and so everyone must be allowed to develop and offer their own ministry service such as from the sample list of the diversity of spiritual gifts and callings from **Romans 12**, **1 Corinthians 12**, and **Ephesians 4:11-16**, all of which are for the benefit of the common good, ALL OF WHICH ARE NEEDED in order for the Body to become mature, since maturity in the Body only happens “as each does its part.” There are also secular callings, talents and gifts that God gives people for the benefit of society, but they do not build the Kingdom. And while some people may feel their life's ‘calling’ is only to function in a secular role, I do not think this is true. I believe everyone will find a spiritual position to serve within the Kingdom in an eternal, spiritual sense, if they but seek it. I do not think anyone has been overlooked.

(6) **“Ministers” are called to Equip, not act as superstars.** **Ephesians 4:11-16**, again shows us that, “He gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers” ... but why? This verse says plainly that it is **to Equip the SAINTS** to do the work of the ministry, not for these five types to only do it all themselves as ‘superstars.’ This equipping and empowering other to serve will not happen if ‘five fold’ ministers minister for their own glory, because somehow they alone are ‘special’—they *are* special, ALL of God's children are! The Lord's work requires an army of equipped people, not only a small handful of super-able superstars. But true equipping of the saints can only come from

those who minister from the impartial heart of a parent who has genuine love for ALL of God's Children, equally without partiality, and wants to see them all reach their full Kingdom potential, even full ministry potential, even at the expense of being overshadowed by their spiritual children.

(7) Leaders in the Kingdom are those who are actually serving the people's real spiritual needs, regardless of title, rank or recognition by men or within men's systems. Mark 9:33-37 not only tells us who is greatest in the Kingdom, but shows us a major revelation of the **type of leadership those in the Kingdom display** (contrasted to the type of leadership those operating in the world's spirit display). *Other behaviors aside, this one element will open or close the Kingdom, welcoming or rejecting the Father.* The real leaders are the ones who are actually serving the people's needs, not from the TOP of a hierarchical pyramid, but having the pyramid turned on its head, point down, and these who are 'first in the church' are really the ones on the very bottom, supporting everyone else in their spiritual needs. The real leaders are those who support the people of God to find and abide in Him—all else is self serving vanity. This helps to reveal the difference between the community of goats and sheep, the unclean and clean, the carnal and spiritual, and helps us to see **that there are TWO kinds of unity at work in the Body of Christ right now: the one which is of man is by far the most common and popular, but the other is of God in the Spirit—only one of these leads to the Kingdom; the other God will destroy with all that it has built.**

Empowerment

(8) Grace is God's empowerment to overcome and become like Christ in character and nature, it is not His permission to sin. 1 Corinthians 15:10, Hebrew 4:16, Romans 5:2. *Knowing* the Bible or even God's personal will or direction for us is still not enough to enter the Kingdom, serve Him in ministry, or even obey, since we still lack the capability to DO most of what He asks of us. So **one of the basic keys to being able to DO what He SAYS is living by the daily empowerment of God's energizing GRACE—this is a gift of**

power or ability from God to enable us to change, be filled with the fruit of the Spirit, to DO His WILL, and to serve Him to minister to others' spiritual needs from this source of Life. Some may call this the 'anointing' but Paul called it Grace—without it we are trying to walk in the spirit and even mature ourselves in our own flesh, and the cross of Christ becomes powerless, meaningless to us. Grace is instantly on tap in Jesus' presence to meet your *daily* needs, not just available to you in the *sweet by and by*—no, it is for you NOW, because that is exactly when you really need it to overcome the trials of your daily life.

(9) Spiritual fellowship—spiritual Communion, or personal spiritual intimacy with the Lord—is therefore the main Key to operating in the spiritual world of the Kingdom of God. First, none of this Kingdom work can be done by humans by themselves on autopilot; they need constant, moment by moment direction, instruction, and empowerment from the Holy Spirit. **So being able to personally discover and walk in the fullness of the Kingdom comes from discovering and practicing personal spiritual communion (interactive fellowship) with the Lord through the Holy Spirit.** But second the goal of our lives in Christ is not just to work, *but to know God as a person.* Many know about God, but few KNOW Him. KNOWING Him opens the Kingdom. Enjoying spiritual fellowship, which we call spiritual communion, is worshipping God in spirit and in truth. This is what He told the Samaritan woman at the well. **John 4:23-24.** This is fellowshiping with the **“abiding anointing” that teaches you all things that John the Apostle spoke about in 1 John 2:27.** So not only do we need this kind of interaction in our daily walk, **the real goal of our lives is to know God personally for ourselves—and enjoying spiritual communion is practically how we do this.** Consequently it is also how we discover who we are in Christ as well, the realization of our 'new self' made in God's image, (Colossians 3:10). The teaching from this chapter is the single most important and most practical revelation that I have ever received—it is how to talk with God and to get to actually know Him. Yes, it is a process and does not happen overnight—and so it is what we spend most of our time ministering so people can enjoy knowing God themselves.

(This chapter is what is being presented in this stand-alone book you are reading now by the way.)

(10) **The Mind of Christ** ... how to begin to describe such a profound impartation as *omniscience*? Incomparable, unfathomable, priceless, and yet already given to us within our earthly inheritance—already within your grasp, but so far beyond what you would ever dare to think of or ask for, it remains to most a mystery, a secret that so few are likely to ever lay hold of on earth. I am dumbfounded trying to explain the enormity of this experience, this GIFT, this impartation called the Mind of Christ. It seems to be a part of the spiritual body. It is somehow connected to the *Heart of Christ*, which together form a kind of spiritual mind (of knowing and feeling), a spiritual organ He called it that gives you divine knowledge, supernatural understanding, a kind of short range omniscience empowering you to literally SEE what the Father is doing, to KNOW what is going on around without ever being told, and to UNDERSTAND dark mysteries and complex solutions. It is a kind of omniscience that Christ had on earth, enabling him to fulfil his calling as Son of God, Servant of God, on the earth in complete obedience to the Father. Since it would not be necessary to have full omniscience to fulfil his calling while on the earth, some aspects of ‘full’ omniscience were seemingly withheld from him temporarily.

Such things as decoding the genome, tweaking the cosmological constant, navigating the complex emotional turmoil of a 21th century believer’s daily struggles with addiction are all aspects of ‘full’ omniscience but ones that would not really help Jesus to fulfil his task in first century Israel, so they were largely put on hold. But what he did need to know to move among the throngs of early Palestine, to teach the people God’s sacred secrets, to avoid premature capture, to find the right people to touch in the right ways, and to know their hearts, minds, their secrets and their destinies in God’s plan was all given to him to perceive at that time. That is what it feels like. It is a ‘limited’ omniscience, truncated to include just those things necessary to know to serve in the role of a Servant, a Son on the Earth, in a specific location, in a certain time frame, with a specific task at hand. The rest could wait. But this Mind, this spiritual tap into a super-higher

intelligence was needed for him (and for us in his stead) to live and move in total synchronization with the Holy Spirit in furtherance of the Father's will for his life on a daily, hourly, moment by moment basis. **THIS** is the Mind of Christ, which we can begin to experience now, and which will forever change your life if you even walk in it for a few hours. **John 5:19, 1 Corinthians 2:16, Colossians 3: 1-3, Hebrews 10:16.** **Enjoying this mind allows a person to experience a living alignment with the Father and the Holy Spirit so we can carry on our aspect of Jesus ministry on earth because our thoughts—Jesus' and ours—literally become as one.** We think **HIS THOUGHTS** in ourselves, joined as if we shared one heart and brain. We are not having to be **TOLD what to do, or be TAUGHT what will happen, or be SPOKEN TO for direction ... we just already KNOW.** The Mind of Christ can be received, ministered, even "imparted" to believers enabling them to feel (from the Heart of Christ) and think (from the Mind) Christ's thoughts **IN REAL TIME.** It is greater than having a gift of prophecy or word of knowledge; it is even greater than enjoying communion in some ways, like a higher level of intimacy! It is a level of unity with Christ that surpasses most all we could even imagine, let alone ask for, and yet it's already available for mature believers who seek it and have a heart that desires such unity with Him and submission to His will. This teaching *is serious meat*, a real pearl of the Kingdom, that scoffers will mock, and those not cleansed from the pollution of the world or too immature to grasp will choke on, trample underfoot and try to deride as foolish. Yet this is something I felt the Lord specifically ask me to include in this message, so I have, otherwise I would not have dared to share it, for it is intended for a spiritually mature audience *only.* Experiencing the Mind of Christ even for a few minutes will drastically change your life, the way you think, and even the way you perceive reality, yourself and God.

Wrapping it up

The last two chapters (11) and (12) are chapters that I am still waiting for confirmation and clarification on. The Lord told me that if I waited a few months He would give me something very

important to share, and so I said ok, . . . I'll wait . . . and I waited more than seven years!

he then told me the next Key, loving the unlovable. But has yet to explain it to me in way I can share it.

He has shown me a few things but I am not sure yet what I should share so I think it is better at this point not to jump the gun or be hasty and miss the way, and so I won't mention what the last one or two areas may contain.

However, regardless of what the Lord chooses to include in the final discussion, we will likely offer a kind of summary chapter discussing the how these revelations may affect the way we do ministry, the way we do "church."

Because with this new understanding of how we are to administer the Gospel, we will begin to redefine our goals and make changes to the methods we use to achieve them, exhibiting new patterns of behaviour, and new models of how we minister to serve the needs of the community. This will actually do much to redefine our religious lives, to redefine our religion, and bring a kind of new life, a new wine, into Christianity. For this reason, to hold the new wine, new wineskins will have to emerge. This term refers first to the people, but it also tends to describe the organizations and associations, ministries and communities of these people as more and more like minded believers join their fellowship. The old wineskin types of organizations, the goats, the unwise virgins, will surely endure to the end, since when Christ comes back He takes the wise, while the unwise who were without oil were left behind. Such people clung to man's ways, man's ideas, man's churches and would not embrace the higher way to live which the Lord was showing them, the way that is above the ways of man. And while they are still loved by God and still offered salvation if they hold fast to their testimony to the end, despite the horrors of the end times persecution against the saints, it will be both costly and bitter. Actually either path we take is costly and involves suffering and persecution, and while both groups are still called Virgins, so are redeemed, there is still a great benefit to being among the wise.

Kingdom Coming

So what this book, *Foundations*, will show fairly conclusively is that indeed the way many of us now 'do church' WILL SIMPLY NOT PRODUCE THE KINGDOM, nor will it allow the Bride to mature, nor will it produce an overcoming people.

Only allowing a select class of people to minister will prevent this.

Only letting one kind of minister to minister will prevent this.

Only ministering in 'Word' will prevent this.

Preaching only socially topical sermons will prevent this.

Preaching borrowed messages without personal revelation will prevent this.

Preaching man's wisdom and opinions, regardless of how large the crowds are that come to hear such messages, will prevent this.

Having current leaders minister as 'superstars' instead of as 'coaches' will prevent this.

Leading church communities or ministries more as 'CEOs' or 'businessmen' instead of authentic servants will prevent this.

Living without daily, even hourly input from the Holy Spirit will prevent this.

Living a form of godliness without real power will be increasingly harder and harder, and will eventually become practically futile and will continue to prevent this Kingdom from ever manifesting among us.

And there are surely more revelations that will characterize this shift from the parody of Christ the church now lives like, towards an authentic experience, a lifestyle of walking together with God manifested in our daily lives on earth. But these points are already a lot to think about and do go a long way I believe towards changing how we operate and live, laying the foundation of the now rising Kingdom, may it come quickly.

Yes, the shift toward the Kingdom is really coming, and it will come to us when we embrace a new lifestyle, a new expression of Christianity, which will surely reveal itself in a totally new way that we will 'do church' because it will change how we 'do life.'

And what He is revealing is so easy, fun and fruitful that it's really silly that we missed seeing it for so long.

It's clear that to date we've basically had no real idea what to do to build the Kingdom for God, but GOD BE PRAISED that He has indeed revealed these things to his children, the unwise of the world, the ones who have sat at his feet and just listened! He has done this by His Spirit, whispering to us in our secret places during times of true spiritual worship, and now we are to proclaim these things from the rooftops! (Matthew 10:27)

So now we are bold to pray with understanding and real faith (confidence and hope) as we were taught to pray so long ago: May his Kingdom come and His will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven—and so a third time let me say, hallelujah!

Amen!

